



Writing for Your Life

An Action Plan for Writing Improvement

LeTourneau University's Quality Enhancement Plan -- *Writing for Your Life* -- addresses a deficit in student performance revealed by LeTourneau University's English Proficiency Exam and anecdotal evidence with faculty members across disciplines. Through discussions with faculty members, LeTourneau University chose to approach improving student writing through a three-pronged approach:

- Create a robust Writing Center to provide much-needed remediation and support.
- Establish a Writing Council, a cross-disciplinary group of faculty, to facilitate communication between academic units and the Writing Center
- Improve assessment accuracy in composition courses to facilitate effective measurement of student writing strengths and weaknesses. This improved assessment accuracy will lead to faculty having improved actionable data that will facilitate the design of appropriate pedagogical and curricular modifications to improve student learning.

Writing for Your Life is coordinated by the Director of the University's Writing Center and focuses on standard English writing proficiency, understanding and responding appropriately to various rhetorical situations, and utilizing credible source material to support ideas. The Director partners with the Department of Literature & Language Arts to ensure that composition students who need extra remediation develop the skills necessary to succeed in upper-division courses. The Director assists academic departments with providing additional support to upper-division students who need additional writing skill development as they prepare to graduate and move into their careers.

The University is using multiple avenues to engage students in use of the Writing Center. The University will launch a positive, on-going marketing campaign concerning the Writing Center and other learning opportunities. The Director of the Writing Center and Writing Council will establish referral and tracking protocols that require underperforming students to attend Writing Center tutorial sessions.

The plan for assessing the improvement in student writing will be integrated into the fabric of the institution. The assessment process will follow a three-year cycle of collection, assessment-planning, and implementation. There is staggered implementation of the assessment process allowing the institution to develop a sustainable process in the assessment of writing. LeTourneau University will be using the AAC&U VALUE rubric for written communication to provide consistency across disciplines.

Please contact Dr. Jesse Sharpe (JesseSharpe@letu.edu), Writing Center Director, for questions concerning the implementation of *Writing for Your Life*.