



PALM BEACH ATLANTIC UNIVERSITY  
**THINK FOR YOURSELF  
WRITE FOR OTHERS**  
Quality Enhancement Plan

## Executive Summary

*Think for Yourself—Write for Others* is PBA's five-year plan to improve the critical thinking and writing skills of undergraduate students at Palm Beach Atlantic University through initiatives in three areas:

- **Instruction and Assessment**—including critical thinking and writing skills in selected general education classes, using common learning outcomes and grading standards in all the classes.
- **Faculty Development**—providing training, resources, and incentives to support the improved teaching of critical thinking and writing skills.
- **Academic Support**—establishing a Center for Writing Excellence to provide writing instruction and support beyond what is received in the classroom.

### General education courses to be affected:

|   |                                     |
|---|-------------------------------------|
| Composition I and II  | Exploring the Bible                 |
| Public Speaking   | Freedom in American Society         |
| Humanities I, II and III  | Christian Values and Biblical Faith |
| First-Year Experience (Day Program)<br>or Leadership for Academic Success (Evening Program) |                                     |

### Textbooks chosen for multi-year use:

- *Critical Thinking: Tools for Taking Charge of your Professional and Personal Life*, Richard Paul and Linda Elder
- *The St. Martin's Handbook*, Andrea A. Lunsford

### How will the plan work?

Each year approximately 12 faculty members will participate in a series of workshops in the spring semester on the topics of critical thinking, writing and assessment. The culmination of each faculty member's spring will be a modified course syllabus including methods for applying the QEP learning outcomes in that course. Each fall a new faculty group and a new student group will experience the modified course syllabus. Various assessment tools will be used along the way to determine effectiveness of the interventions (MAPP, CAT, PBA-developed rubrics for critical thinking and writing, surveys, etc.). Each group of faculty will become resources for the next group. Students in each year's group of new freshmen will take six of the courses during their first year. They will be encouraged to take the remaining three in QEP format during their time at PBA.

The Center for Writing Excellence opened in Fall 2008 to provide academic support for student writing to main campus students. Online writing support will be available to all PBA students.

### For more information, contact:

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