



SOUTH PLAINS COLLEGE

Where Dreams Precede Realities: Intervention Strategies for Writing Executive Summary

The South Plains College Quality Enhancement Plan, Where Dreams Precede Realities: Intervention Strategies for Writing, is focused on student success in corequisite English 1301 courses and student learning outcomes related to written communication skills. The QEP topic was identified over the course of approximately three years, beginning with SPC's strategic planning process and followed by multiple steering teams, focus groups, data collection, and a literature review. The key methods for moving SPC towards higher successful course completion rates are the expansion of the current SPC Writing Center and increasing the capacity for tutoring services specifically related to writing skills.

Student Success Goal: Students enrolled in ENGL 1301/INRW 0300 successfully complete both the ENGL 1301 and INRW 0300 portions of the corequisite English 1301 course.

As successful course completion increases, a core focus of the QEP is to ensure that students' written work improves in measurable ways. The Student Learning Outcomes (SLOs) of the QEP will focus on improving writing skills for corequisite students using direct measurement of written essays. Student essays are expected to show improvement in four competencies. The first is *Unity*, which means the essay is guided by a clear thesis and topic sentences; it stays focused on the topic throughout and avoids irrelevant information/ideas. The second competency is *Support*, meaning the essay contains sufficient details in the body paragraphs to effectively support its claims; the body paragraph support is specific and compelling. Next, *Coherence* means the essay is logically organized and maintains a coherent train of thought from one idea to the next; the essay effectively uses transitions to make clear connections between ideas. Finally, *Sentence Skills* means the essay avoids errors in grammar, mechanics, and spelling; the sentences are effectively written with the appropriate style and variety. These measurable competencies gave rise to four Student Learning Outcomes for the QEP.

Student Learning Outcomes (SLO):

SLO 1: Underprepared students demonstrate competent use of Unity on written essays.

SLO 2: Underprepared students demonstrate competent use of Support on written essays.

SLO 3: Underprepared students demonstrate competent use of Coherence on written essays.

SLO 4: Underprepared students demonstrate competent use of Sentence Skills on written essays.