

January 2012 Assessment Information

Every course should be assessed every semester that it is taught. **The Fall 2011 assessment grids are due on Feb. 1 to your department's W: drive.** You can request assistance from your department assessment advocate and utilize the resources on the Assessment website, <http://icc.edu/innovation/assessment.html>. We are also hosting two Assessment Drop-In days in the TLC:

- Monday, Jan. 30 1-3 P.M.
- Tuesday, Jan. 31 3-5 P.M.

- In Fall 2011, the general education assessment team delivered a college-wide recommendation following their assessment of student writing:

We can improve student learning by more frequently requiring students to use sources and evidence to develop and support ideas in written communication.

Here are some things to consider:

- All students should be producing written work in all classes across all disciplines.
- Writers should use credible and relevant sources to develop and support their own ideas.
- Primary source material may be obtained from field research, personal interviews, and real-world experiences.
- Secondary source material may be obtained from high-quality databases, library materials, and the World Wide Web.
- Source material should be cited internally by referencing those sources in the text or in parentheticals.
- Source material should be cited externally by including a works cited or references page.
- Source material should be cited in a manner appropriate for the discipline and genre of the writing. For example,
 - A writer completing a literary analysis would use MLA guidelines to cite sources.
 - A writer completing a research paper on a medical related topic would use APA guidelines to cite sources.

What if I need help?

- Librarians from ICC library will come to your class to discuss how to find credible and relevant source material.
- Consultants from The Studio will come to your class to discuss using and citing sources and evidence in written communication.
- Colleagues who teach composition can help you design effective writing assignments.
- Writer's handbooks like *The Little Penguin Handbook* provide resources for learning about how writers can use sources and evidence.
- Purdue's Online Writing Lab (OWL) is an excellent source of information for teachers and students - owl.english.purdue.edu/owl

Now is the time to think about ways that you can enact the team's recommendation. Next month, we'll ask you to submit your plans and ideas so that we can share them online and at our Assessment Fair. Student writing will again be assessed in the next few years (the cycle for the assessment of the general education goals is still being determined)...after these recommendations have had time to be implemented.

- General Education goal assessment is ongoing. This year, we will assess oral communication and mathematical skills/reasoning. Many of you can submit artifacts for these projects. Communicate with your assessment advocates about how you can contribute your students' work.
- Mark your calendars for Monday, May 14 so that you can attend our Second Annual Assessment Fair! *Details as the date approaches.*

We have accomplished a great deal thanks to your ongoing commitment to improving student learning through assessment. Please communicate your questions to your assessment advocates and deans. We look forward to another positive and productive semester.