




Department of English
University of Puerto Rico at Mayagüez

Closing the Loop
Assessment Plan
and Results
January 19, 2007



Introduction: Dept of English

- serves the entire RUM campus community
- basic, intermediate, and advanced tracks
- English majors, BA and MAEE

English Service Courses

- Not content based
- Teach processes of reading, writing, and critical thinking
- Assessment is on-going

Closing the Loop: One Objective

- Literature course for English Majors
- Objective: to “relate excerpted passages from the primary texts to their contexts.”
- Pre-test = 10, 8, 0, 8, 10, 0%.
- Post-test = 90, 96, 50, 100, 92, 80%
- Conclusion: Intervention Successful

Closing the Loop: One Objective

- Service Course, Ingl3201-2 (basic track)
- “Write an effective thesis statement”
 - Spring 2006, no rubric
 - Fall 2006 repeated with rubric – created by committee

Rubric for Thesis Statement

- Includes topic & opinion
 - Not too broad
 - Not too narrow
 - Guides the writing
-
- 3 Ratings: yes, somewhat/partial, or no

Outline of Plan

- Ingl 3201-2 Using New Rubric
- 627 students (5 sections missing for 3201)
- Pre-test
- Interventions
- Post-test (14 of 21 sections missing for 3201)

Pre-Test

- First Revised Paper
- Students progress from Ingl3201 to 3202
- Difficulty of creating thesis statement increases

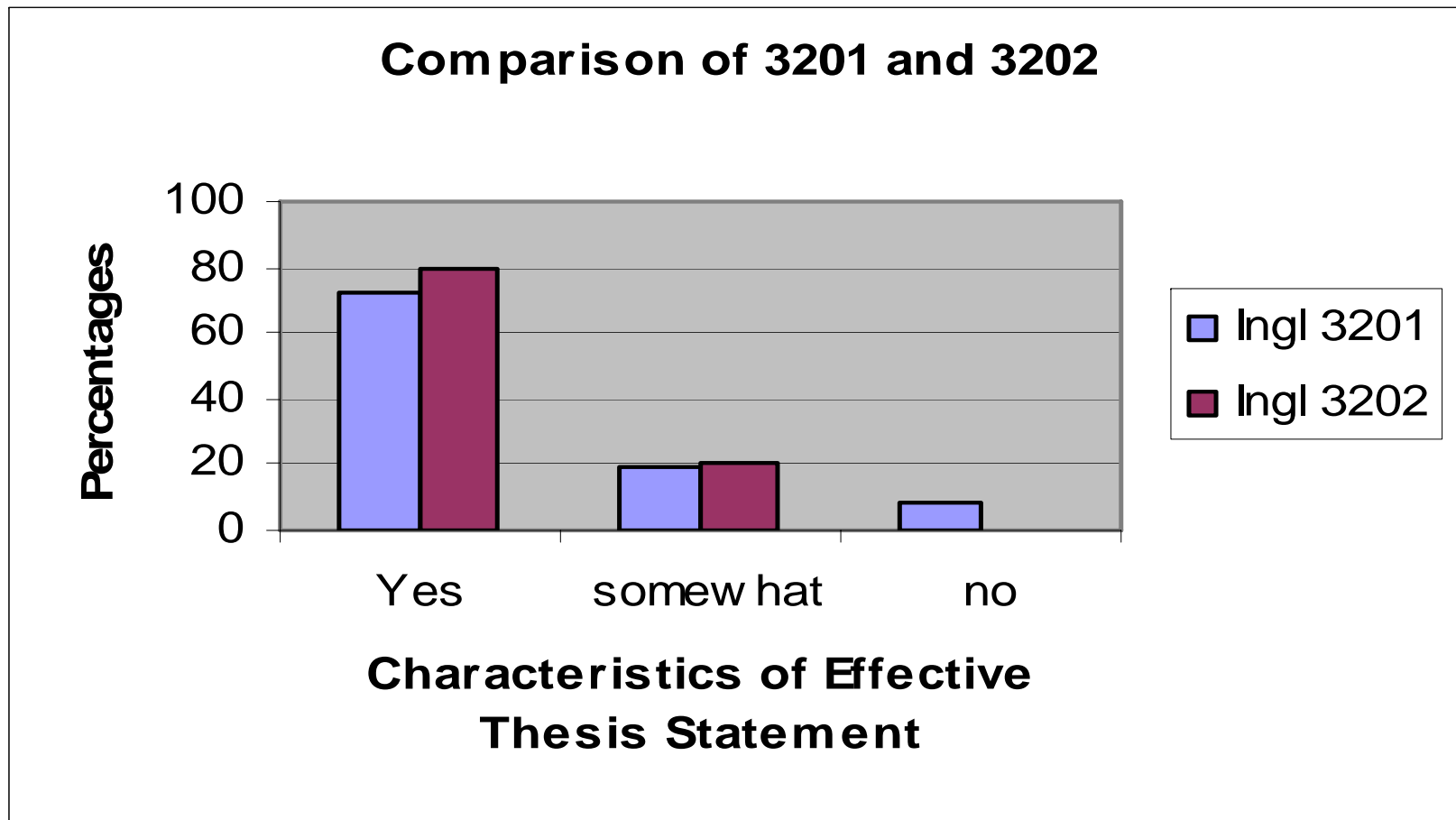
Interventions

- Teach definition
- Locate in readings
- Discuss parameters
- Write their own in series of drafts
 - Various methods collected from faculty

Post-Test

- Final formal paper of semester
- Research papers, complex analysis of topics in literature

Fall 2006 Results – Pre-Test



Possible Actions

Post-test results will vary

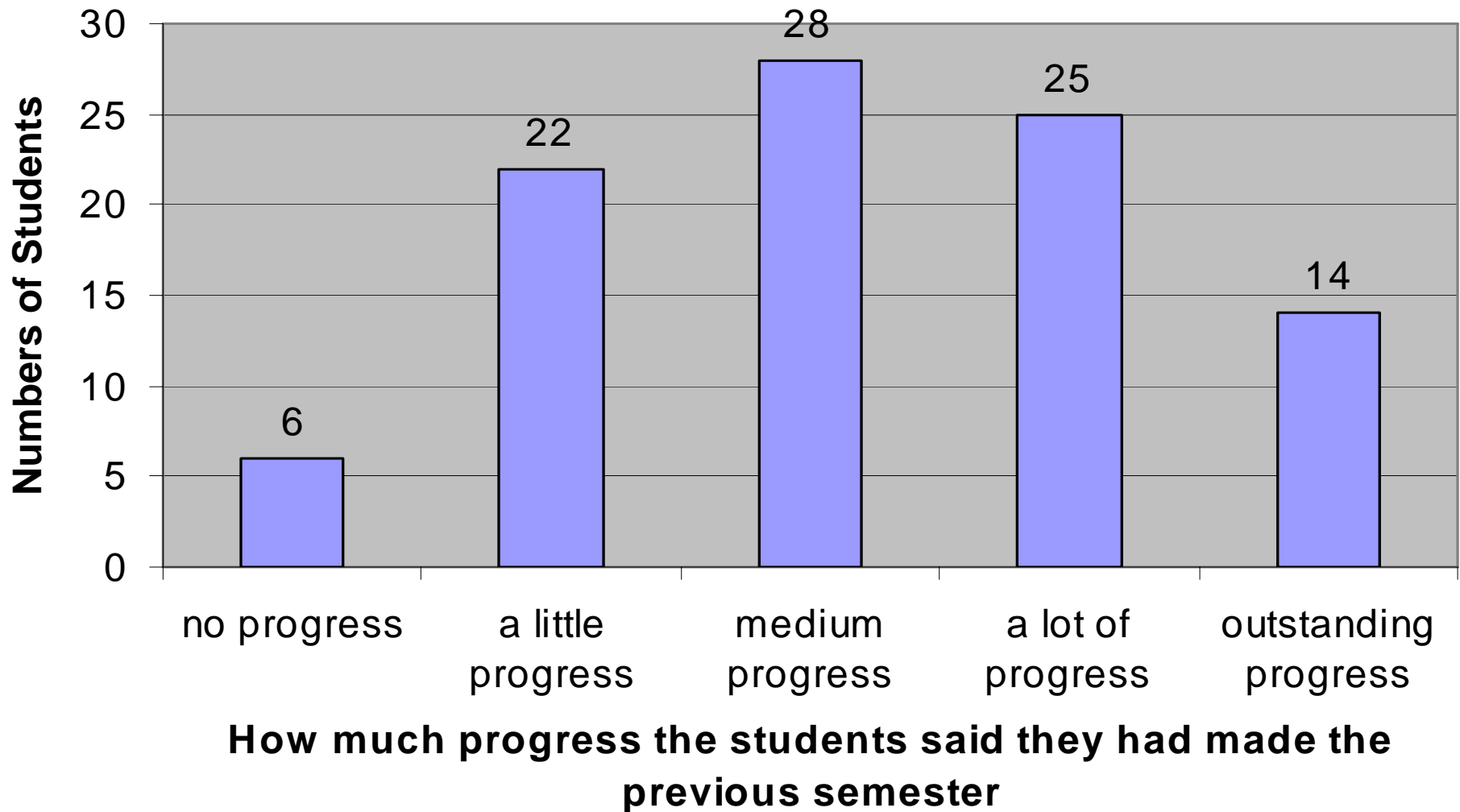
- Same result
- Higher scores
- Lower scores

Newly Created Rubric should give uniformity and consensus across sections (multi-section course)

Closing the Loop Supplemented

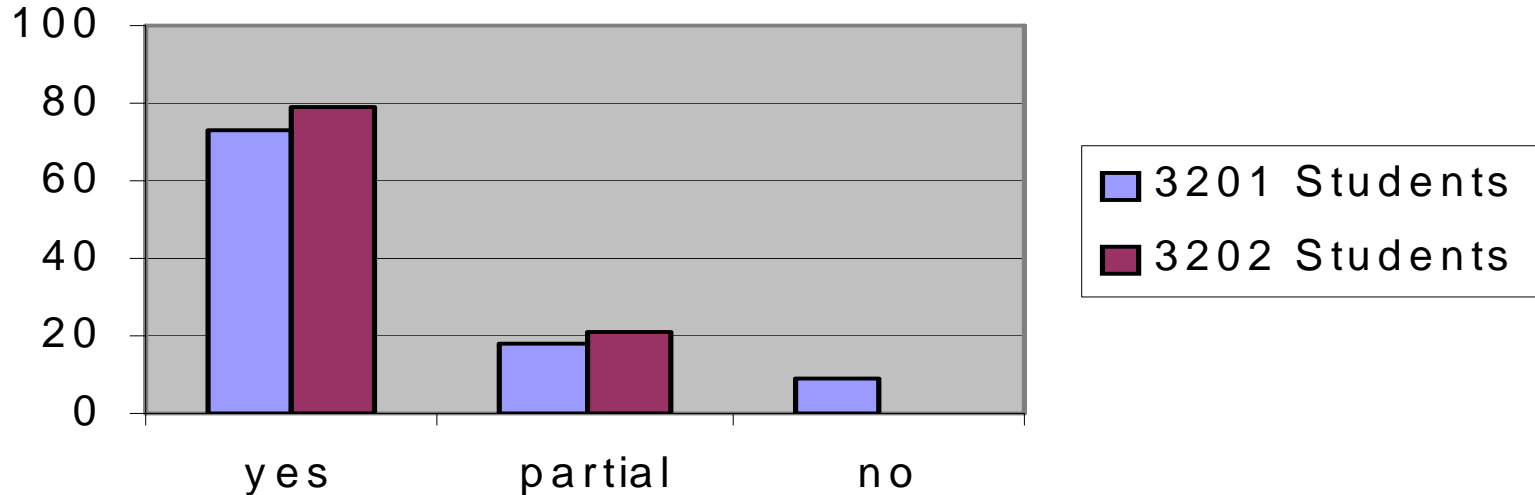
- Faculty emphasis on teaching the objective is 100% “essential”
- Student opinions of their learning adds needed dimension
- Michigan Test (Achievement Test)

Ingl3202: Student Opinions (n=95) on Their Progress Learning to Write an Effective Thesis Statement



Characteristic #1 (Pre-Test)

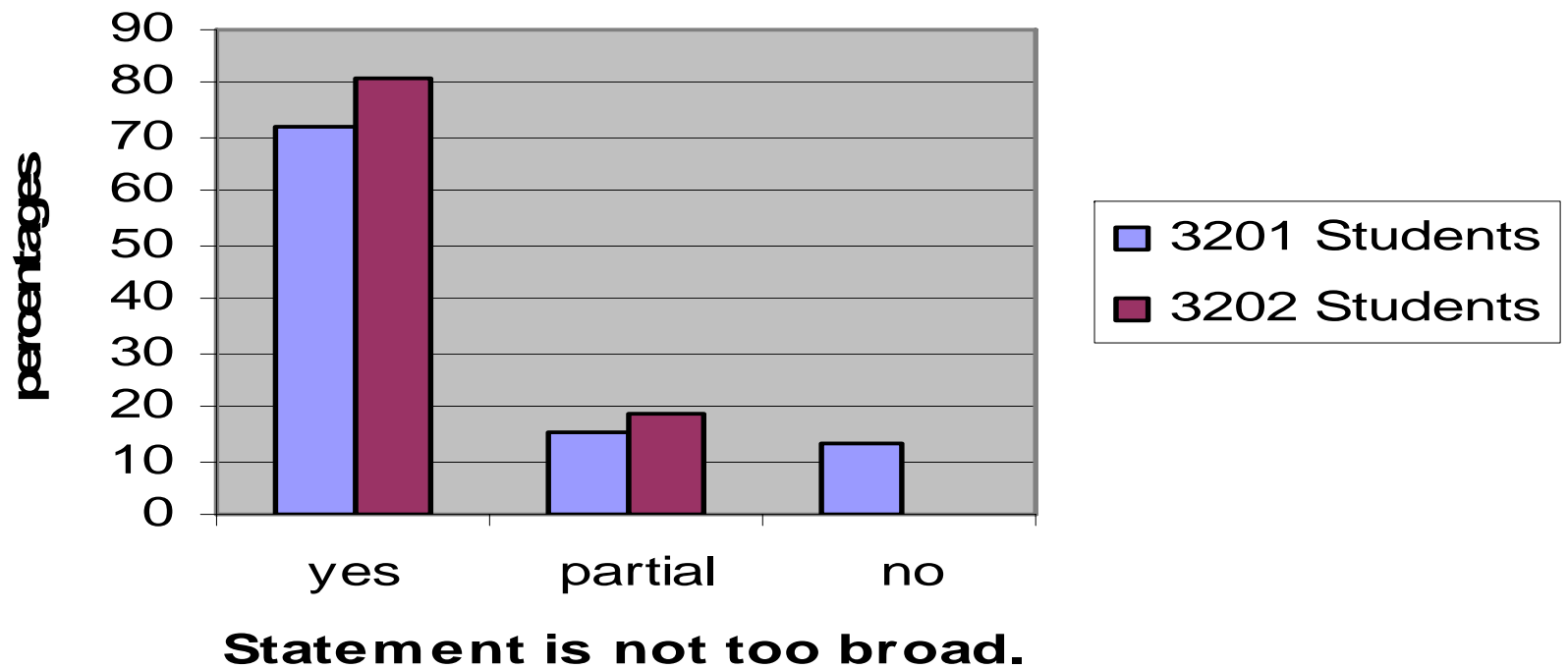
Comparison of 3201/3202 Students,
Characteristic 1



**Thesis statement includes topic and
opinion in one statement.**

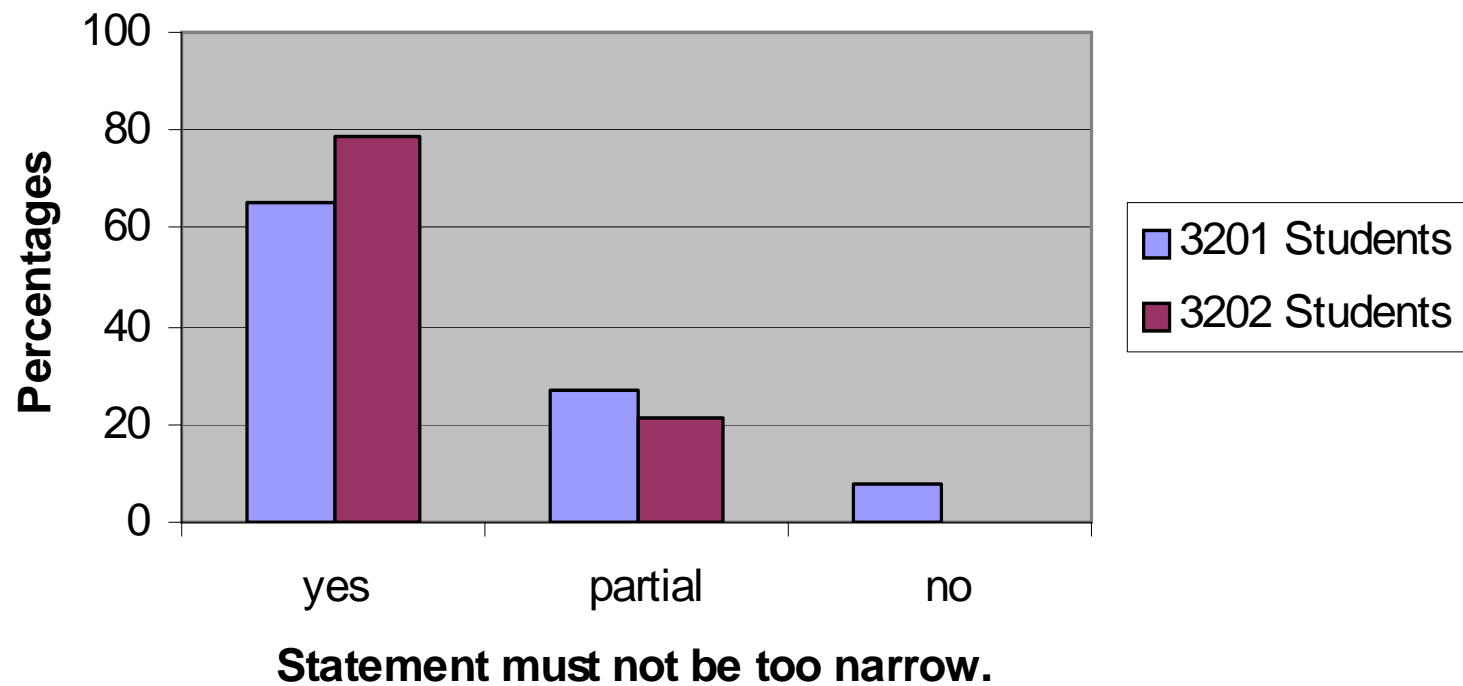
Characteristic #2

Characteristics of Thesis Statement: 2

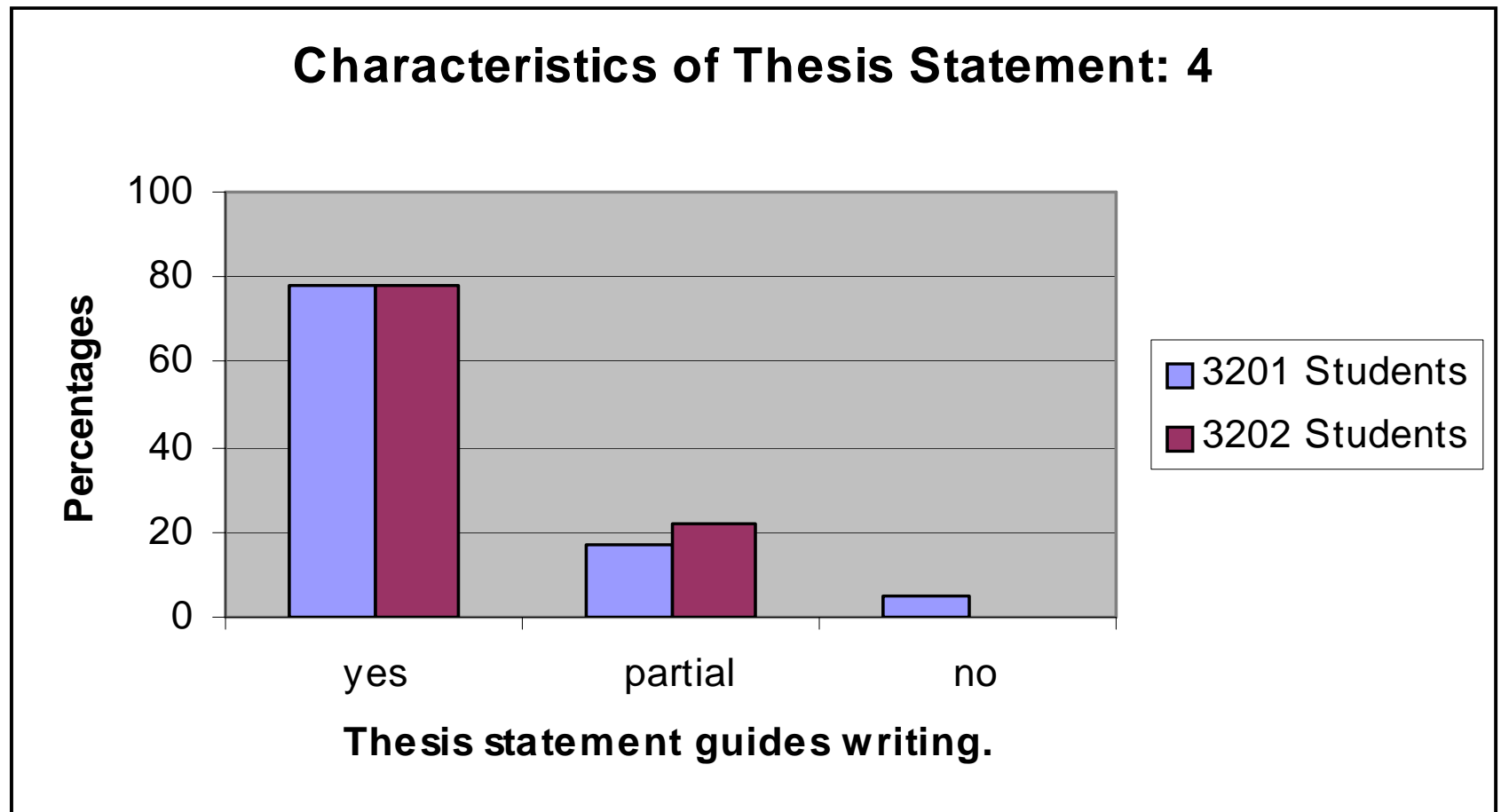


Characteristic #3

Characteristics of a Thesis Statement: 3



Characteristic #4



Post Tests

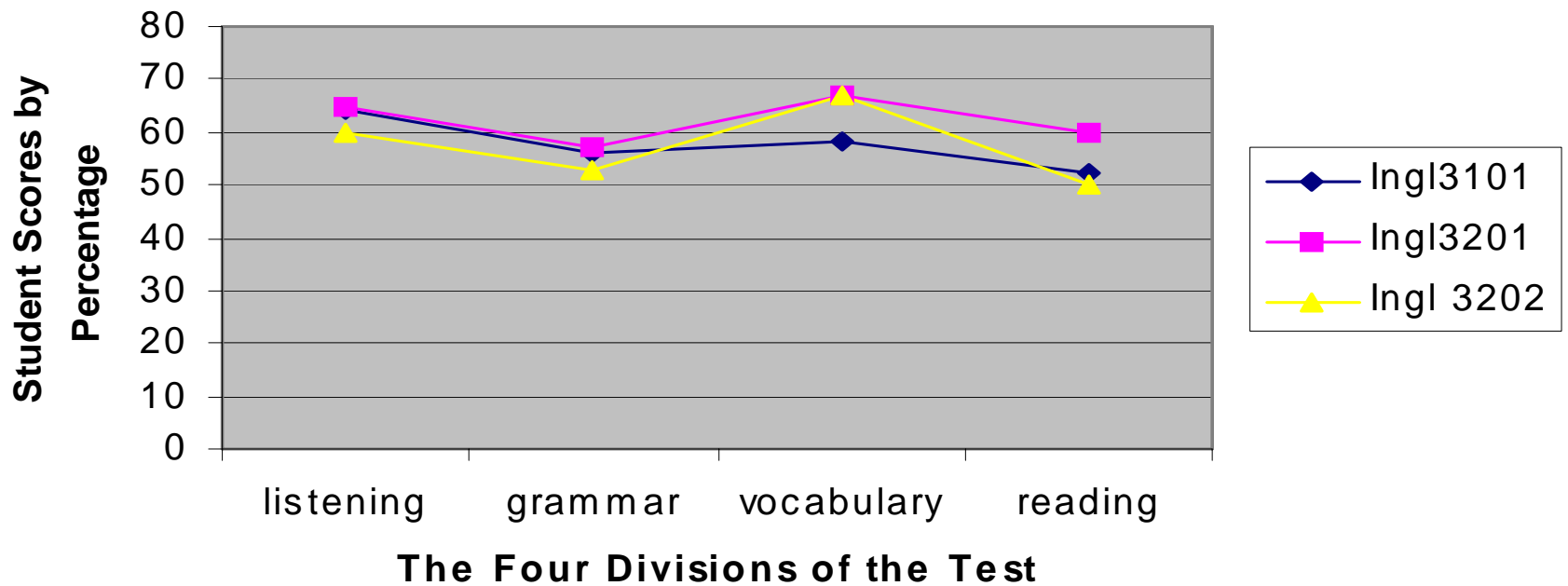
- Little change in either course
- Slight increase in “yes” by faculty

Conclusion

- Loop has been closed BUT
- Objective has not necessarily been met
 - Little change from pre- and post-test
- Essential components to be added:
 - Agree that RUBRIC reveals problems
 - Faculty must re-assess interventions

Michigan Test

Michigan Test - Comparison of Courses, Mean Scores



English Dept. Summary

Closing the Loop Plan and Results

- Shows us the system for all objectives in all courses
- Fall 2006: Refined “writing thesis statement” results show problem in sequence
- On-track vs. off-track students who cannot catch up
- Fall 2006: Close the Loop for a course taken by English Majors – results to follow



English Majors

