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

Comparison of 3201 and 3202

Characteristics of Effective Thesis Statement

Percentages

Yes  somewhat  no

Ingl 3201  Ingl 3202
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

How much progress the students said they had made the previous semester:

- **No progress**: 6 students
- **A little progress**: 22 students
- **Medium progress**: 28 students
- **A lot of progress**: 25 students
- **Outstanding progress**: 14 students
Characteristic #1 (Pre-Test)

Comparison of 3201/3202 Students,
Characteristic 1

Thesis statement includes topic and opinion in one statement.
Characteristics of Thesis Statement: 2

Statement is not too broad.

- Characteristics of Thesis Statement: 2
  - yes
  - partial
  - no

- 3201 Students
- 3202 Students

Data shows that a significant percentage of students agree that the thesis statement is not too broad.
Characteristics of a Thesis Statement: 3

Statement must not be too narrow.

- Yes: 3201 Students, 3202 Students
- Partial: 3201 Students, 3202 Students
- No: 3201 Students, 3202 Students
Characteristic #4

Characteristics of Thesis Statement: 4

Thesis statement guides writing.

- 3201 Students: 80% yes, 20% no
- 3202 Students: 60% yes, 30% no

Yes, Thesis statement guides writing.

Yes, partial, no
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

The Four Divisions of the Test

Michigan Test - Comparison of Courses, Mean Scores

Student Scores by Percentage

The Four Divisions of the Test

- listening
- grammar
- vocabulary
- reading
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