

Workshop Debriefing Spring 2010

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This year's statistics include information from our first semester serving the Delano campus.

Total number of workshops attended (registrations)	BC campus	1282
	Delano campus	23
	TOTAL	1305
(-2.14% from Fall 09 and +3.45% from Spring 09)		
Total number of students	BC campus	503
	Delano campus	19
	TOTAL	522
(-1.9% from Fall 09 and -8.8% from Spring 09)		
Average number of workshops attended by one student—BC campus		2.54
(2.5 in Fall 09 and 2.3 in Spring 09)		
	Delano campus	1.2
	TOTAL	2.5
Number of professors sending students to workshops	BC campus	42
(43 in Fall 09 and 34 in Spring 09)		
	Delano campus	5
	TOTAL	47

Total number of workshops—BC campus 80

Attendance by workshop/Number of workshops/Average attendance

Current Events	112	9	12.5
Ethics	136	9	15
Finding Books	156	8	19.5
Internet Evaluation	202	13	15.5
Internet Searching	120	8	15
Periodicals	216	13	16.6
Qualifying	112	8	14
Research St.	228	12	19
TOTAL	1282	80	16
(This compares to 19 per workshop in Fall 09 and 18.26 in Spring 09.)			
Delano campus 7			
Current Events	3	1	3
Finding Books	4	1	4
Internet Evaluation	4	2	2
Internet Searching	6	1	6
Periodicals	6	2	3
TOTAL	23	7	3.3
COMBINED TOTAL	1305	87	15

This semester we used a similar assessment/satisfaction survey.

Number of surveys completed—1194

Two of the questions were quantifiable.

Question 1—"Before attending the workshop, how would you rate your expectations about what you would learn?"

On a 5-point scale ranging from High (5) to Low (1), the average response was 3.59, midway between Average and Above Average.

Question 3—"Will this information help you with research for your college classes?"

On a 5-point scale ranging from Essential (5) to Not at all (1), the average response was 4.56, midway between Essential and Quite Useful.

Both of these results are slightly higher than previous semesters when we polled our attendees and indicate that while expectations for the workshops are fairly high, the students are more enthusiastic about what they learned after the hour-long sessions.

The results for these quantifiable questions for each workshop are listed below:

	Question 1	Question 3
Current Events (110 responses)	3.75	4.58
Ethics (132 responses)	3.55	4.3
Finding Books (149 responses)	3.75	4.67
Internet Evaluation (191 responses)	3.54	4.57
Internet Searching (107 responses)	3.56	4.54
Periodicals (155 responses)	3.71	4.5
Qualifying (97 responses)	3.6	4.5
Research St (210 responses)	3.6	4.5

These results were comparable to last semester, indicating that we still have satisfied students!

In response to the questions, "What did you actually learn in this workshop," or "What questions or comments do you have," many of the comments are illustrative of the value of the workshops. I've included a few of the comments:

Current Events: "How to look for info without the internet."

"That there are **MANY** more resources/databases available for use to BC students. We also learned how to use these."

"How to use other databases concerning newspapers and other sources not covered in the other workshops."

Ethics: "Lots of helpful tips that clarified my understanding of how to paraphrase."

"I learned why I did not pass English B50 the first time."

"I did not know that I needed to cite material which I summarized and/or paraphrased."

Finding Books: "Encyclopedias can be useful to find additional books on a subject."

"How the Library of Congress number system works and access E-books."

"How to actually find legitimate sources for research papers—couldn't find anything before!"

Internet Evaluation: "Good workshop. I learned more than I expected."
"This workshop helped me think about how I use the information I get."
"What's **expected** of a student with regard to qualifying sources."

Internet Searching: "Very useful information not only for schoolwork, but life in general."
"It is going to help w/ my psychology paper, especially Infomine."
"Everything I was doing wrong!"

Periodicals: "That I don't have to flip through magazines to find articles."
"I'm glad some teachers make these workshops mandatory because I wouldn't have thought to come. This will help me so much w/ my research."
"That I should have attended this workshop a lot sooner, would have made my research easier."

Qualifying Print Sources: "Whether or not an author is appropriate for a college paper."
"I actually learned a lot about checking book sources before using them. I've never checked the credibility of print sources because I didn't think I needed to."
"I am actually excited for my research paper because I don't dread the research now."

Research Strategies: "Much better ways to save time with less frustration, also what I was doing wrong."
"Most helpful was turning the umbrella topic into something debatable."
"I learned that if you do not choose the correct words for your topic, you will not get good results from the research."

Changes this semester: We added 10 workshops to the BC schedule and initiated workshops at the Delano campus. These additions lowered our average attendance in workshops. (In Fall 09, 19 students, on average, attended each workshop whereas 16 students attended Spring 09; adding Delano to the mix, the average drops to 15.

Adding the Friday 10:30 workshop in L148 was a success; attendance was high in those workshops, and there wasn't too much confusion about meeting in an alternate space. Overall, I don't believe we turned away as many students this year, but there were still some sessions on Friday, Saturday and late in the semester when a few students were turned away.

Looking ahead: I think we may need to reduce the number of workshops—by 5 or so--and possibly go to a 9-week schedule. If Dawn (and/or Marci) is reassigned to teach English, we will be forced to further reduce our workshop commitment.