

Case Study on Students Using WriteLab

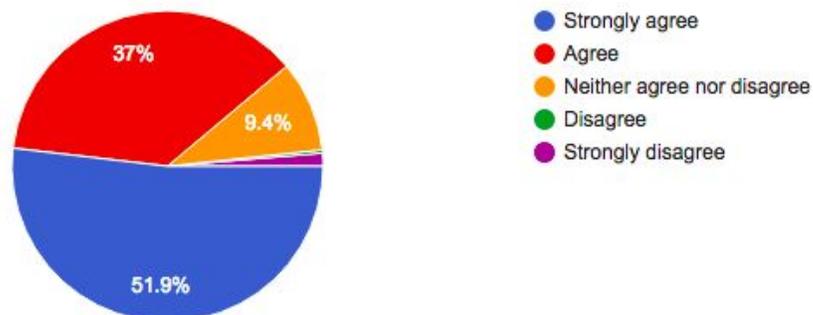
Since starting [WriteLab](#) in 2013, my team and I have worked to empower student writers, enabling them to master the writing and revision process.

This summer, we completed a pilot with Ashford University with around **6000** students. After completing the pilot, we surveyed the students to discover what worked and what didn't. **297** students responded. We have shared these results with Ashford, and I have included the anonymous student feedback below, warts and all. This is a research study, and as educators and product developers, we are more interested in learning from what students did not like about the program than in what we can use to promote ourselves.

For the first part of the survey, we asked students whether they agreed with the following five statements:

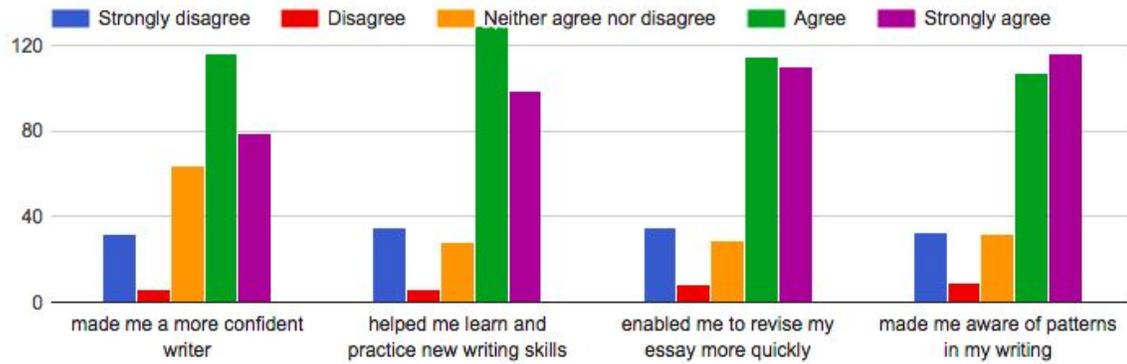
- WriteLab helped me improve my writing.
- WriteLab has made me a more confident writer.
- WriteLab has helped me learn and practice new writing skills.
- WriteLab has enabled me to revise my essay more quickly.
- WriteLab made me aware of patterns in my writing.

WriteLab helped me improve my writing. (297 responses)



88.9% agreed that WriteLab helped them improve their writing, with 51.9% strongly agreeing. Only 1.6% disagreed, and the remaining ~9.4% were neutral.

WriteLab has...



65.6% agreed that WriteLab made them more confident writers.

77.1% agreed that WriteLab helped them learn and practice new writing skills.

75.7% agreed that WriteLab enabled them to revise their essays more quickly.

75% agreed that WriteLab made them aware of patterns in their writing.

Much of the writing was at the level you would find in high school and early college, and 93.9% of the survey participants were native English speakers and 6.1% ELLs.

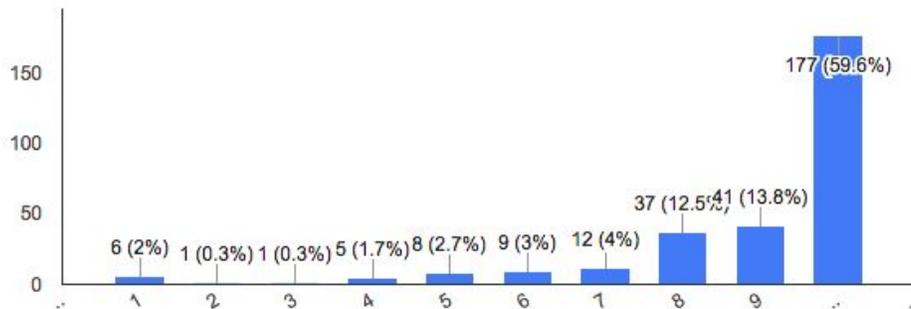
So that you can see the students' own words, below I've included all the student responses to two prompts:

1) Please describe your experience using WriteLab and 2) What would you improve about WriteLab?

Finally, we asked students how likely they would be to recommend WriteLab to a friend.

On a scale from 1 to 10, how likely are you to recommend WriteLab to a friend?

(297 responses)



A few takeaways for us at WriteLab:

1. Students often don't understand the feedback we give unless we provide specific alternatives for revision.
2. Although we mean well with holistic feedback, students often find those comments vague and struggle to revise based on them.
3. We need to discover a way to help students relax as they experiment with their writing. If we can help them see writing as choices and better articulate their thinking, we will have empowered them with a lifelong and ever fruitful skill.