UC Irvine
Academic English/ESL

Support Services
for our Writing Students
Who’s here today?

- University instructors?
- Community college instructors?
- Language specialists?
- Students?
Classroom Experience of Academic English 20ABC Students

- Quarter System with 10 Weeks of Instruction
- Three Writing Levels: 20A, 20B, and 20C
- Placement based on Essay Exam
- Same 8 core grammar topics in 20A, 20B and 20C
- Different Books (Grammar for Writing 1 and 2, Writing Clearly)
- Different Objectives: Basic, Intermediate, and Advanced Grammar/Writing Proficiency
Meeting Increased Student Need

- Our Program has seen tremendous enrollment growth in the past five years.
- We offered 9 sections of Ac Eng 20ABC in F 2011, 17 sections in F12, 47 sections in F13, 56 sections in F14, 72 sections in F15, 81 sections in F16.
The Academic English Resource Center (AERC) is a workshop series taught by three Academic English instructors.

AERC instructors receive one course release for teaching AERC 4 hours a week.

Each week brings a new Grammar topic as well as a new Writing topic closely aligned with the curriculum.

We offer extra instruction and quiz retakes in 8 grammar topics:

1. Grammar Terminology
2. Identifying Subjects/Tenses
3. Subject-Verb Agreement
4. Verb Tense
5. Number
6. Articles
7. Verb Form and Modals
8. Word Form
History and Development

Before 2011
- LARC
- Grammar workshops

Fall 2012-Spring 2014
- 1 AERC instructor
- Grammar only

Fall 2014
- 2 AERC instructors
- Grammar and writing workshops
- Students enroll in 1-unit “lab”

Fall 2015
- 3 AERC instructors
- Grammar workshop offered 8 times a week
- Writing workshop offered 4 times a week
Core Beliefs That Shape Our Approach

- Retention effort needs to adapt to increased demand.
- Grammar is the backbone of solid writing.
- Verbs are crucial.
- Repetition is necessary.
- 75% mastery of each grammar topic is necessary.

AERC Grammar Workshop Attendance per Quiz (Fall 2015)
Classroom/AERC Grammar Workshop Integration

- AERC offers grammar topics in the same order as classes do, but the quizzes differ.
- Scheduling is timely. Students attend AERC the week after scoring below 75% on a grammar quiz, and AERC score overrides NP.
- Scheduling is convenient. Students have eight time slots to choose from.
- 50-min AERC Grammar workshop:
  - 25 minutes of instruction
  - 10 minutes of practice
  - 15 minutes of makeup quiz
Effectiveness of Grammar Workshops

- Most students pass the AERC quiz after 25 minutes of review and 10 minutes of practice.

- Average pass rate in AERC Grammar Workshops:
  - F15: 87%
  - W16: 81%
  - S16: 85%

AERC Fall 2015 Pass Rates per Quiz
Classroom/AERC Writing Workshop Integration

- 9 workshops given each quarter
  - topics change weekly
  - workshops supplement instruction and are tied to the curriculum
  - tailored to quarterly readings/assignments
- Applicable to students at all levels
- Scheduling is convenient: four time slots / week
- Students receive Language Development Points for attending

AERC Trio
Amanda Jerome
Cathy Vimutitinan
Anna Striedter
Writing Workshop Topics

General / important writing skills

- Introductions & Conclusions
- Paragraph Development
- Quoting & Citation
- Analysis in Writing
- Cohesive Writing
- Summary Writing
- Academic Vocabulary & Dictionary Use
Writing Workshop Topics (cont.)

Preparation for specific assignments

- Timed Writing Exam Preparation
  - midterm and/or final
- Article / Book Discussions (to prepare for paper topics)
  - Give and Take; Superfreakonomics; Stumbling on Happiness
- Progress Letter & Portfolio
- Academic Honesty (every Fall)
Self-Directed Learning Options

Language Development points: 5-10% of entire course grade

- Students are encouraged to participate in and engage with the community around them in English both on and off campus.
- Students write a 1-page, double-spaced reflection per activity.
- Other options besides AERC Writing Workshops:
  - International Center Workshops and Activities
  - Writing Center Conferences
  - Peer Tutoring
  - UCI / Community Activities
  - Project Success Conferences (if required)
Attendance: Fall 2015

1,123: Total number of 20 A-C students enrolled

1,239: Total writing workshop attendance during the quarter

138: Average attendance per week

30: Average attendance per workshop
Attendance: Fall 2015

2 Academic Honesty
3 Introductions, Theses & Conclusions
4 Topic Sentences & Paragraph Development
5 Quoting & Citation
6 Analysis
7 Give and Take
Discussion & Summary
8 Superfreakonomics
Discussion
9 TWE Strategies & Editing Tips
10 Academic Vocabulary & Dictionary Use

Attendance per week

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week</th>
<th>Attendance</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Week 2</td>
<td>97</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Week 3</td>
<td>104</td>
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<tr>
<td>Week 4</td>
<td>126</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Week 5</td>
<td>115</td>
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<td>Week 6</td>
<td>123</td>
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<td>Week 7</td>
<td>141</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Week 8</td>
<td>129</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Week 9</td>
<td>289</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Week 10</td>
<td>115</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Effectiveness of Writing Workshops

Introduction
Please complete this quick survey on the AERC Writing Workshop you attended.

* : Required question

1. *Rate each statement on a scale of "strongly agree" to "strongly disagree."

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Statement</th>
<th>Strongly Agree</th>
<th>Agree</th>
<th>Neutral</th>
<th>Disagree</th>
<th>Strongly Disagree</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>I found the workshop content and materials useful for my AE 20 course.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>I learned something new in this workshop.</td>
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<tr>
<td>The instructor led the workshop in a clear and logical way.</td>
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2. Please leave any comments or specific suggestions you might have for the Introductions and Conclusions Writing Workshop in the box below.


Sample Survey Results: Fall 2015

- Mid-Fall 2015
- Voluntary and anonymous
- Sent after the workshops every Friday

AERC Feedback for Week 7--Give and Take

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Strongly Agree</th>
<th>Agree</th>
<th>Neutral</th>
<th>Disagree</th>
<th>Strongly Disagree</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>a. I found the workshop content and materials useful for my AE 20 course.</td>
<td>53% 2% 2% 2%</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>b. I learned something new in this workshop.</td>
<td>45% 42% 11% 2%</td>
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<tr>
<td>c. The instructor led the workshop in a clear and logical way.</td>
<td>55% 40% 4% 2%</td>
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</tbody>
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Student Satisfaction

Average percentages for strongly agree & agree responses:

a. I found the workshop content and materials useful for my AE 20 course.
   - Fall 2015: 91%
   - Winter 2016: 95%
   - Spring 2016: 90%

b. I learned something new in this workshop.
   - Fall 2015: 86%
   - Winter 2016: 94%
   - Spring 2016: 90%

c. The instructor led the workshop in a clear and logical way.
   - Fall 2015: 92%
   - Winter 2016: 96%
   - Spring 2016: 92%
Sample Survey Results:
Part 2 (Open-Ended)

- “The workshop is really good and I think it is really helpful to students who have trouble in the reading materials.”
- “I liked the practice they gave us.”
- “I liked the worksheets and working with other students.”
- “It made me feel more confident when I am writing my first draft.”
- “Group working is good.”

- “Offer more seats / workshops.”
- “More examples please”
- “If this class could be more fun that will be great.”
Logistics: AERC

- Securing classrooms
  - Ideal capacity of 25-40 seats
- Attendance
  - Students reserve seats on SignUpGenius.com
  - Site updated every Friday afternoon
  - Signed slip given to students in Writing Workshops (for Language Development points)
- Communication
  - Weekly announcements to instructors
  - Fielding student emails
Project Success

- One-on-one tutoring given to at-risk Academic English writing students
History and Development

Before 2012
• LARC
• One-on-one tutoring once a week for students who failed previous course
• Ended because of CA Budget Crisis

Fall 2012
• Start of International Student Boom

Fall 2014 - present
• Academic English / Writing Center Collaboration
• One-on-one tutoring three times per quarter
Funding Project Success

- Funding for Project Success comes from the Dean of Humanities.
- The Dean is willing to fund the program if Academic English writing courses have pass rates above 80%.
Project Success Writing Specialists & Administration

- Academic English Director: Robin Scarcella
- Writing Center Director: Jonathan Alexander (Daniel Gross, former interim director)
- Project Success Coordinator: Jacob Ludwig
- Writing Specialists: Sei Lee (AE), Kerri McCanna, Percival Guevarra, Amber Clontz, Soledad Quartucci, Courtney Santos
Project Success Student Population

- Project Success is currently available for anyone that has failed an AE Writing course.
- Project Success was previously available to only 20C/D students.
  - When pass rates increased, Project Success was made available to all levels.
- The current capacity for Project Success is 90 students.
Logistics of Project Success

- Three one-hour tutoring sessions per quarter
  - One in Weeks 2-4, one in Weeks 5-7, one in Weeks 8-10
- First session booked online; subsequent sessions typically booked directly with Writing Specialist
- Major AE papers are usually discussed during the session, but students are encouraged to bring any AE work that is causing difficulties.
Project Success Online Tools

- Google Drive
  - Online folder for students to put any work they wish to discuss during tutoring sessions
  - Includes a set of notes of each tutoring session
- Online Booking
  - SignupGenius.com, Youcanbook.me, Google Calendar
- Online Appointments
  - Google Hangouts, Google Drive/Docs
Credit in Academic English

- Students receive credit for attending Project Success.
  - Project Success substitutes Language Development activities.
  - Students do not receive Language Development credit if they do not attend the session or book an appointment.
  - No credit is given for cancellations made with less than 24 hours notice.
  - Sessions are cancelled when students are more than 15 minutes late.
  - Any disputes or extenuating situations are resolved through the instructor, not the Writing Specialist.
Project Success Pass Rate and AE Pass Rate (2014-2016)

- Project Success: 88.38%
- Academic English: 85.64%
Project Success Pass Rates by Attendance: Lowest Pass Rate & Highest Pass Rate
Project Success Total Pass Rate and Pass Rate by Attendance
Project Success: Looking to the Future

- Logistics
  - Should we expand online sessions? Is there a student need for them?
  - Should Project Success sessions be mandatory or recommended?

- Research
  - Are there any similarities in deficiency reports of Project Success students who do not pass?
  - Does student writing get better with Project Success tutoring?
  - What happens to pass rates when students do not take an AE writing class for a quarter or longer?
Supporting Our AE Students

- Every year brings a new group of students, sometimes a more or less proficient group and often a larger group than the year before.
- We are constantly assessing and adapting the ways in which we provide support to our students.
- At present, the three support services we have discussed today are working successfully.
  - AERC Grammar Workshops
  - AERC Writing Workshops
  - Project Success One-on-One Tutoring
Thank You for Joining Us

Please contact us if you have any questions!

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