



# Closing the Loop:

## Using Assessment to Improve Student Learning

2017-2018 General Education Highlights



### Category 1A: Reading and Writing

#### Outcome(s) Assessed

##### SLO 2: Analytical Skills

- Graduates will display competence in oral, written, and visual communication, as appropriate for their discipline
- Students will display the ability to produce written texts that are focused, clear, complete, and effective
- Students will display the knowledge of and ability to practice the processes of effective writing

#### Methods & Artifacts

- Randomly selected **persuasive essays** from Cornerstone courses

#### Data-Informed Action Plan

- **Assignments had wide variety of parameters across courses**
  - Revisited the common assignment to agree upon assignment expectations
- **Source work was problematic**
  - Added additional focus on source quality, variety, and type
- **Voice is challenging for most students**
  - Additional focus on writing with voice added to curriculum
  - Discussed the idea of incorporating multiple perspectives in writing

### Category 1B: Reading and Speaking

#### Outcome(s) Assessed

- Graduates will display competence in oral, written, and visual communication, as appropriate for their discipline
- Students will develop thinking and listening skills necessary for effective communication in a variety of relational contexts

#### Methods & Artifacts

- Randomly selected student **speeches** from Cornerstone courses

#### Data-Informed Action Plan

- **Lack of flow and organization in speeches, lack of vocal variety**
  - Added a stronger focus on proper attention getters and concluding statements to curriculum
- **Concerns with source quality, variety, and type**
  - Revisited primary assignment to further clarify this expectation
- **Additional weak areas to focus on emerged**
  - Added a renewed focus on gesturing, comfort level, and organization to the curriculum

### Critical Thinking

#### Outcome(s) Assessed

- Graduates will demonstrate critical thinking through the ability to evaluate, analyze, and integrate information from a variety of sources in order to develop reasoned positions and solutions to problems
- Recognizing that there are multiple perspectives and world views, and identifying how these differences affect interactions with others
- Examining the impact of your beliefs and values on your interactions with others

#### Methods & Artifacts

- Randomly selected **persuasive essays** from Cornerstone courses

#### Data-Informed Action Plan

- **More summary than direct quotation, reliance on limited sources, and a lack of attribution to sources**
  - Demonstrated a need for continued and increased focus on research and citation
- **Lowest performance on the influence of context assumptions**
  - Additional focus on awareness of others' assumptions needed
  - Demonstrated need for students to integrate additional sources into writing