**Summary of data from assessing student writing in philosophy (2008–12, N=61)**

(4: target/mastery; >=3: competent; <3: not competent)

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  |  | **% at target (=4)** | | | | **% competent (>=3)** | | | |
|  | Mean +/- conf. interval | All | SR | JR | SO | All | SR | JR | SO |
| **Basic writing** | **2.98 +/- 0.157** | **5%** | **8%** | **4%** | **0%** | **54%** | **62%** | **50%** | **45%** |
| G/M, mech., wc, spelling | 3.04 +/- 0.180 | 13% | 15% | 13% | 9% | 75% | 69% | 79% | 82% |
| Awkwardness | 3.07 +/- 0.186 | 20% | 31% | 13% | 9% | 72% | 77% | 63% | 82% |
| MoE for basic vocab. | 3.35 +/- 0.149 | 31% | 42% | 25% | 18% | 87% | 88% | 83% | 91% |
| Introduction | 2.91 +/- 0.194 | 15% | 23% | 13% | 0% | 62% | 62% | 67% | 55% |
| Overall org. | 2.93 +/- 0.209 | 16% | 15% | 21% | 9% | 67% | 77% | 63% | 55% |
| Paragraph org. | 2.93 +/- 0.188 | 11% | 15% | 8% | 9% | 61% | 62% | 58% | 64% |
| Transitions | 3.07 +/- 0.178 | 20% | 23% | 21% | 9% | 70% | 77% | 63% | 73% |
| Style | 3.04 +/- 0.176 | 20% | 31% | 13% | 9% | 66% | 62% | 71% | 64% |
| Citations and reference list | 2.59 +/- 0.250 | 13% | 15% | 17% | 0% | 49% | 58% | 46% | 36% |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  | All | SR | JR | SO | All | SR | JR | SO |
| **Usage of terminology** | **3.32 +/- 0.127** | **13%** | **19%** | **13%** | **0%** | **87%** | **85%** | **92%** | **82%** |
| Usage of tech. T | 3.34 +/- 0.149 | 28% | 35% | 25% | 18% | 85% | 81% | 88% | 91% |
| Usage of non-tech. T | 3.31 +/- 0.134 | 18% | 27% | 17% | 0% | 85% | 81% | 92% | 82% |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  | All | SR | JR | SO | All | SR | JR | SO |
| **Presentation of views/ arguments of others** | **3.16 +/- 0.143** | **11%** | **23%** | **0%** | **9%** | **69%** | **77%** | **67%** | **55%** |
| Clarity/accuracy of views | 3.07 +/- 0.166 | 13% | 23% | 0% | 18% | 69% | 81% | 58% | 64% |
| Clarity/ accuracy of args. | 2.98 +/- 0.163 | 8% | 19% | 0% | 0% | 66% | 73% | 63% | 55% |
| Supporting args. | 3.04 +/- 0.154 | 13% | 15% | 13% | 9% | 74% | 81% | 71% | 64% |
| Relevance of views/args. | 3.75 +/- 0.109 | 67% | 73% | 67% | 55% | 97% | 96% | 96% | 100% |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  | All | SR | JR | SO | All | SR | JR | SO |
| **Presentation of author's views/arguments** | **2.92 +/- 0.142** | **6%** | **13%** | **0%** | **0%** | **48%** | **52%** | **43%** | **50%** |
| Clarity/accuracy of views | 3.05 +/- 0.149 | 15% | 22% | 14% | 0% | 69% | 83% | 62% | 50% |
| Clarity of args. | 2.79 +/- 0.150 | 7% | 13% | 0% | 0% | 55% | 52% | 43% | 60% |
| Supporting args. | 2.89 +/- 0.136 | 7% | 17% | 0% | 0% | 61% | 65% | 57% | 60% |
| Consid. of objections | 2.34 +/- 0.192 | 6% | 13% | 0% | 0% | 23% | 22% | 33% | 0% |
| Relevance of views/args. | 3.77 +/- 0.134 | 76% | 87% | 71% | 60% | 94% | 96% | 90% | 100% |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  | All | SR | JR | SO | All | SR | JR | SO |
| **Criticism of views/ arguments of others** | **2.90 +/- 0.154** | **4%** | **10%** | **0%** | **0%** | **53%** | **57%** | **53%** | **44%** |
| Clear stmt. of criticism | 2.93 +/- 0.174 | 8% | 19% | 0% | 0% | 59% | 67% | 53% | 56% |
| Supporting args. | 2.84 +/- 0.163 | 4% | 10% | 0% | 0% | 63% | 71% | 58% | 56% |
| Consid. of objections | 2.35 +/- 0.202 | 6% | 10% | 5% | 0% | 23% | 29% | 26% | 0% |
| Relevance of criticism | 3.76 +/- 0.151 | 73% | 81% | 74% | 56% | 96% | 90% | 100% | 100% |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  | All | SR | JR | SO | All | SR | JR | SO |
| **Research skills** | **3.55 +/- 0.160** | **38%** | **31%** | **46%** | **38%** | **89%** | **94%** | **85%** | **88%** |
| Integration of research | 3.20 +/- 0.267 | 37% | 31% | 45% | 38% | 77% | 81% | 64% | 88% |
| Use of appr. sources | 3.82 +/- 0.102 | 73% | 75% | 69% | 75% | 100% | 100% | 100% | 100% |