

22 May 2008

From: Craig Livingston

Subject: Writing Boot Camp Final Report, Spring Semester 2008

To: Ron Heckelman, Montgomery College

Mark Stelter and I staged a writing "Boot Camp." Our purpose was to drill students in the technique of writing in-class essays under the pressure of the clock. We offered two sessions, one on Saturday, the other on Thursday night. Each session lasted 2 hours. Thirty-eight Livingston students showed. Fifteen more Stelter students came.

We divided the sessions into two halves. In the first hour, we discussed how to prepare for an in-class essay, reviewed examples of students writing, emphasized ways to better craft sentences and paragraphs, and showed students how to write introductions and conclusions. In the second half, we broke out by discipline. I put students through a series of hands-on writing drills.

The results satisfied me. The average increase among the 38 students who attended boot camp was .58%, or roughly a half-grade. The average score of those who didn't attend stayed the same.

I will host Boot Camp again. The sessions were cozy, productive, and they offered a venue for student and teacher to interact outside the classroom.

Respectfully,

Craig Livingston

Attached:

- Boot Camp Announcement
- Boot Camp Program
- Boot Camp Statistics: Attendees versus Control Group