

**Professor Steve Brahlek**

Nations Bank/Bank of America Endowed Chair  
2007-2009

**Project title:**

Holistic Writing Exercises

**Purpose of activity:**

To create holistic writing exercises that will enhance our students' writing ability by improving their ability to write developed, organized documents that are logically organized, thoroughly developed, and effectively proofread.

**Description of project:**

Using documents created by PBCC students (this has already been approved, see attached form), I will create a series of holistic exercises that will improve our students' ability to create documents that are logically organized and thoroughly developed. This project will also improve their ability to identify problems with wording, grammar, and mechanics. These exercises will not be multiple choice or T/F—they will be holistic models (sentences, paragraphs, and essays) that the student will need to revise and edit, which more closely imitates writing in the classroom and the workplace.

The skills that will be covered by these exercises will include: generating, organizing, and drafting the document, as well as revising (active voice, wording clarity, placement of modifiers, sentence logic) editing (point of view, tense, spelling, usage, possessive, plural, pronouns, verb form) and proofreading.

I will gather samples of student written documents, read and identify selections to use for the exercises, then determine which selections are appropriate for each type of exercise. Next I will create the exercises, write the necessary student instructions, and prepare a packet of exercises for copying. When this is completed, I will identify a credit, an EAP, and a prep instructor (each teaching two sections of their respective courses) and train them in the proper use of the exercise packets. As the semester progresses, I will supervise the use of exercises; then at the end of the semester, I will collect and evaluate student grade data.

**Expected outcomes:**

Students using these holistic exercises will improve their ability to identify weaknesses within their documents, then find ways to improve the weak areas of their documents.

**How outcomes will be measured:**

Three instructors will be identified, one from credit, one from prep, and one from EAP. Each will be teaching two classes, one class will serve as the test group, the other as the control. So there will be two ENC 1101, two EAP 1684, and two ENC 0010 courses. The final grades for the classes will be averaged, then compare the average grades of the experimental and control groups.

**How project benefits the students and college:**

It will improve students writing skills by more closely duplicating the process of document creation in both the academic world and the workplace. This will enable PBCC students to perform at a higher level in the classroom and on the job.

**How project addresses a strategic plan objective:**

SPO 1) PBCC will increase retention, graduation and completion rates by 10% by 2008

**Year 1 activities and budget:**

Fall 2007

- Gather writing samples (already in progress—50% completed)
- Read and identify selections to use for exercises
- Determine which selections are appropriate for each type of exercise
- Type exercises and necessary student instructions
- Prepare packet of exercises for copying
- Copy packets, one per student for a total of six classes (approximately 150 students)
- Identify and train instructors in the proper use of the exercises

Spring 2008

- Supervise use of exercises throughout the semester
- Collect and evaluate student grade data

Summer 2008

- Collect feedback from participating instructors
- Prepare and submit final report

2007-08 Academic Year

Faculty Member	\$3,000.00
Copying	\$1000.00
Clerical	\$1000.00
Total	\$5000.00

**Year 2 activities and budget:**

Not applicable—materials will be gathered and packets created during the fall semester, and the instructors will be using the packets during the spring semester. Data analysis will occur during the summer semester, as well as preparation of the final report.