

### Marion Technical College Marion, Ohio

**INSTRUCTOR** David Webster

**COURSE NAMES** Preparation for College Writing I / Preparation for College Writing II

**CREDIT HOURS** 3

**COURSE FORMAT** Hybrid

**TEXT** *The Writer's World* by Gaetz et al.

**CONTRIBUTION OF MYWRITINGLAB TO FINAL GRADE** 30%

**TYPES OF DATA REPORTED** Improvement in final course grades; Improvement in pass rates and retention; Improved performance in subsequent credit-bearing English courses

**MYLAB USER SINCE** 2007

A MAJORITY OF THE STUDENTS placing into Marion Technical College's developmental writing courses are in their early to mid-20s, with full-time work experience, returning to school for more education to improve their employment prospects. Very few students advance to Marion straight from high school. Enrolling students generally have very little experience with technology.

#### CHOOSING MYWRITINGLAB TO ADDRESS MULTIPLE NEEDS

Instructor David Webster elected to use MyWritingLab both for its pedagogical effectiveness and to give students the opportunity to acquire crucial technology skills and

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*—David Webster*

experience. The Math department at Marion uses Pearson's MyMathLab with positive results, and Webster felt that developmental writing students would benefit from the MyWritingLab learning experience. Webster teaches in a lab environment and also requires students to complete assignments in MyWritingLab outside of class.

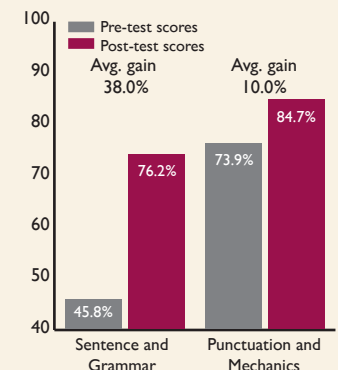
Webster designates 10 grammar modules within MyWritingLab that students must master to pass the class. He selects modules based on students' diagnostic Pre-Test results and also based on advice from the college-level instructors, targeting general areas of skill weakness.

#### TEACHING WITH MYWRITINGLAB

Webster reports that MyWritingLab frees him to concentrate more on general instruction and on resolving individual students' learning and writing challenges. "Since MyWritingLab automatically grades students' daily grammar assignments, I can concentrate more on in-class activities and writing instruction," he says. "I have time to observe students while we work on MyWritingLab in class, and I can intervene to work with students one-on-one or engage the whole class to work through an exercise together when students experience a rough patch."

#### Prep for College Writing II with MyWritingLab 2007-2012

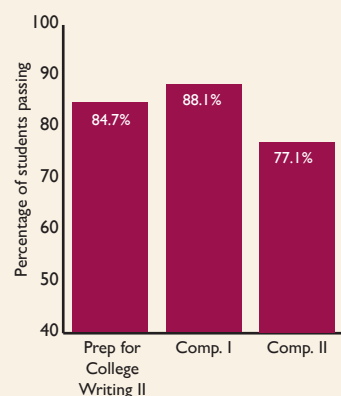
849 students



#### ANALYSIS

Students using MyWritingLab from fall 2007 through spring 2012 made consistent skills gains in Preparation for College Writing II.

## MyWritingLab Gains Fuel Success in Subsequent Credit Courses



### ANALYSIS

Student data shows that students who used MyWritingLab in Prep for College Writing II retained their skills and achieved consistent success in subsequent, credit-bearing English courses. With MyWritingLab, 84.7% of students passed Prep for College Writing II with a C or higher. Subsequently, 88.1% of students who used MyWritingLab in Prep for College Writing II passed Composition I with a C or higher; and 77.1% passed Composition II with a C or higher.

### LEARNING WITH MYWRITINGLAB

Webster's students volunteer positive evaluations of MyWritingLab. The program, he says, helps students isolate their individual areas of skills weakness so they know precisely what they need to study and can spend their efforts most productively. He asserts, "Students quickly learn that there is an absolute correlation between working through the MyWritingLab assignments and achieving the skills mastery needed to pass the course. Students quickly grasp how to work independently with the program, following the personalized Study Plan MyWritingLab supplies. And students who complete their MyWritingLab assignments succeed."

"MyWritingLab has demonstrated to our students (many of whom are displaced workers) the importance of computer skills. Students are able to work in MyWritingLab anywhere they have internet access so they understand how the Web is affecting all aspects of life," says Webster. "One of the benefits of MyWritingLab is that, while students are working to understand grammar principles, they are simultaneously becoming competent users of rather sophisticated Web 2.0 technology."

Webster notes that since adopting MyWritingLab, students leave his course with solid confidence in their grammar ability. "Students achieve real mastery with MyWritingLab."

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In the past perhaps they grasped concepts long enough to pass a single test or perhaps they didn't truly grasp the grammar concepts at all. With MyWritingLab, students acquire—and retain—grammar skills that serve as a foundation for effective writing and success in future courses. Students often return to my office to tell me that they are succeeding in Composition I (a for-credit course) and that their success derives from using MyWritingLab in my College Writing II course."

### RESULTS

Webster and his fellow instructors in Marion Technical College's developmental English program have used MyWritingLab for five years. During that time, they have noted:

- Improvement in test averages over previous semesters
- Improvement in passing rates
- Increased success among students advancing to credit-bearing courses in English

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