An Independent Study Supporting the Efficacy of Pearson’s Auto-Feedback Writing Assignments

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All students were asked to complete the same writing assignment. 40 student essays were then randomly selected for our study.

Two psychology teaching assistants plus Writing Space’s auto-grader scored each writing assignment—a total of 40 student essays—using the same rubric for each essay. This provided us with three sets of essay scores to analyze.

Results: Our analysis of these three sets of student essay scores using Cronbach’s alpha* resulted in 0.8.

Based on these results we decided to implement Pearson’s auto-feedback writing assignments across all introductory psychology sections.

For details on the results we’ve seen since implementing the program with our 1,000+ students per semester, see our complete Case Study.

* A good reliability measure should have a Cronbach’s alpha of at least 0.6, preferably close to 0.9.