

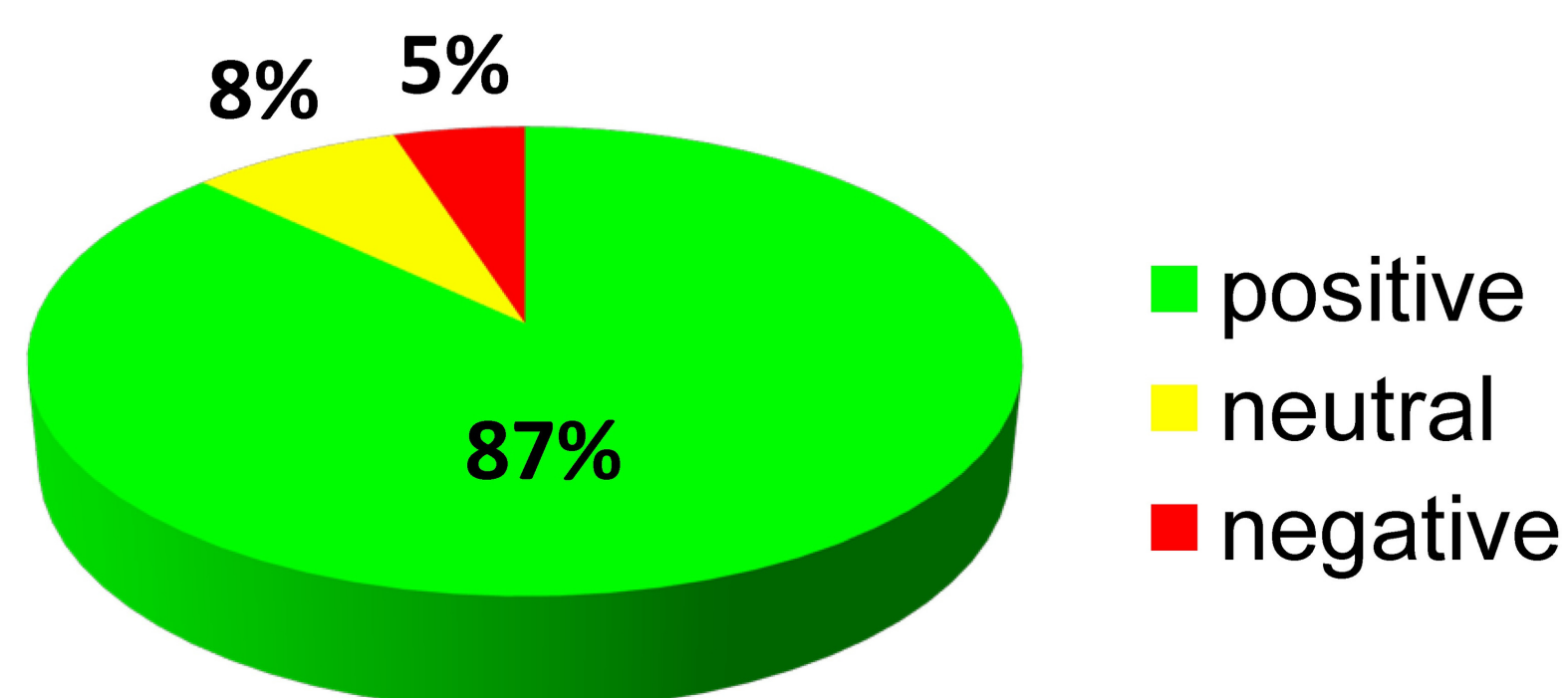
DEPARTMENT OF CHEMICAL & PHYSICAL SCIENCES
COLLOQUIUM SERIES

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**The “Write” Stuff:
Implementing a Comprehensive Approach to Improving
Student Communication Skills**



Student Perception of WIT

The ability of science undergraduate students to capably communicate course content and their understanding of scientific phenomena through writing has long been considered a problem. Effectivemethods for improving student writing skills are often fragmented and undertaken on a course-by-course basis rather than as a coordinated approach. I will describe the implementation of a departmental effort to enhance and evaluate chemistry student writing in several introductory and upper-year laboratory courses. This has involved introducing extensive writing-focused aspects to course assignments and reports through the faculty-wide Writing Instruction & Training (WIT) program and more recently the departmental Chemistry Teaching Fellowship Program (CTFP). The initiative has impacted over 1500 students during an eight-year period. Feedback has been exceptionally positive from undergraduates as well as graduate students.