

WDI Report ECO100Y5Y

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During Summer 2015 ECO100 implemented a tutorial based writing initiative was run with the assistance of Dr. Laura Taylor and Dr. Michael Kaler.

- We sought to teach students how to write an economic analysis of a time series graph.
- Dr. Kaler provided us with a rubric.
- A teaching assistant drafted two examples of economic analysis that were each flawed in some dimension of the rubric. Dr. Taylor consulted on the TA's drafts.
- Students were given the examples during a tutorial and were asked to work in teams applying the rubric. Grades were awarded for correctly identifying the mistakes in the TA's writing.
- The following week, a term test was administered that required students to write a brief analysis of a different economic time series graph.
- These were graded by the TA.
- TA budget was around 10 hours for this project.

During Fall 2015 ECO100 ran a larger scale project.

- Students were given classroom writing instruction using examples of economic analysis from Statistics Canada.
- Students performed a writing assignment during a tutorial. They were asked to self-assess based on an exemplar provided by the instructor.
- On Term Test 5 students performed a writing assignment. This replaced one of our short answer questions and was graded by our usual grading team.
- There was no budget.

Outcomes

- We were pleased that no Academic Offence cases arose during either session. Assignment design made this impossible.
- Students were very stressed about being assessed for writing.
- Exam question format was modified to incorporate more writing.