**GGR111: Summary of Assessment**

*Writing Development Initiative 2021-2022*

[For this assessment, we sampled from early and later blog post submissions, in which students had to write a two-section post: first, they had to describe an example, and then they had to apply course concepts to analyze that example.]

The assessment results for the GGR111 pre samples indicate that student writing started off strong in several areas of the rubric. Many of the pre samples show students organizing their writing into paragraphs with topic sentences, and the writing itself is generally clear, accessible to a general audience, and academic in tone. The main example or event is usually described in the initial paragraph and the course concept defined in a separate paragraph or at the beginning of an analytical paragraph. There are very few instances of pre samples simply repeating the material from the descriptive paragraph in the analytical paragraph. Even if the analysis itself could be improved, most pre samples show students attempting to use the course concept to analyze and expand on the example or event. For these reasons many of the pre samples received high scores in these areas.

At the same time, the results for the post samples show clear improvements in the same and other areas of the rubric. For example, in different post samples, especially in the C-D range, topic sentences are more focused and better reflect the paragraph’s content, and issues with academic tone, like verb contractions and colloquialisms, appear less frequently. Even more notable are cases where the example or event is more relevant to the course concept and/or there are clearer connections between the descriptive and analytical paragraphs.

The pre and post samples for **C8** below illustrate some of these improvements. In particular, these samples contain examples of improved topic sentences and of clearer connections between the described material and the analysis of that material using the course concept:

PRE (GGR11\_2022\_C8\_1)

“I agree with the skepticism of the globalization theory. Last month the covid in Xi'an, China was extremely severe due to the escalating risk of the new crown epidemic and the neighborhood where my grandmother lives is under full closure. The government requires all residents to stay at home and not go out, they are not even allowed to go out to buy groceries in the most basic way, and volunteers come to the house every day to do nucleic acid testing for them. But the food in the house was limited, so my mom and I tried many ways to contact a volunteer to help my grandmother deliver the food. After a few days, a group of homeowners called for volunteers to assist the property owners in distributing supplies. Since the closure, the community staff has been working until the early hours of the morning, and the owners have been volunteering to deliver food to the elderly, while others have been organizing songs on their balconies at night to cheer on the volunteers and residents. I was really touched by how everyone came together to fight the epidemic despite the government's closures.

Skepticism is an attitude of doubt towards objective facts and truths that is neither affirmed nor denied. With an epidemic of this magnitude, we don't necessarily have to “close our doors”. All countries should unite and work together to fight this epidemic. International trade is a very important player between countries, and global trade is needed for the fruit delicacies, clothing, cell phones, etc. that we enjoy every day. Without trade, people's consumption would decline as a whole, leading to the closure of many businesses and the layoff of workers. From the point of view of economic development, the closed country is extremely detrimental to the economic development of the country, and the shortage of materials in various countries has led to a rapid increase in prices. If the country is closed, many workers will not have jobs and cannot return to factories, and the labor force will decline. Closing the country was an effective method but hindered the development of the country leading to economic stagnation and regression. Through this experience, we should work together as citizens of Xi'an and collaborate with each other to fight against this new pneumonia epidemic, which makes me feel the unity of a community, a collective, and a nation.”

POST (GGR111\_2022\_C8\_2)

“Public space is the area where citizens live socially, and it is also the carrier of multiculturalism and unique charm of the city's substantial environment. Shanghai Bund is the most concentrated river avenue in China's modern architecture and the earliest concentration of the financial industry, and is known as the "Wall Street of the East". It is a public area open to the public on the banks of the Huangpu River in the downtown area of Shanghai, which is a scenic spot in Shanghai. As a citizen who has lived in Shanghai for 19 years, I often go to the Bund with friends to walk and take pictures. Shanghai's high-density city lacks open space and places for people to exercise outdoors, so the Shanghai government has been opening up “open park” projects. I discovered that a new greenway system has been developed along the banks of the Huangpu River in the center of Shanghai, consisting of a riverfront walkway, a running path and a bicycle path for citizens to use freely. The Bund is now like a regular park that can be found all over China, where people can sit on benches and enjoy the night view of the bustling Oriental Pearl TV Tower and the various luxury cruise ships that ply the Huangpu River when they are tired of walking. What‘s more, there is also a New Year's Eve event on the last day of each year, where many tourists and citizens gather together on the Bund to watch the light show and wait for the countdown to welcome the New Year.

Cultural politics are one in which various factors can have an impact on the political system, development process, and socio-economic construction of a society or country. The above example is a product of an inclusive space, as the Bund in Shanghai is now available for people from all over the world to visit and tour. The Shanghai government's comprehensive transformation of the Bund's waterfront area to maximize the release of public activity space, which creates ample leisure space for citizens and visitors to reflect the concept of a democratic society. The development of the greenway system enhances the use of public space in the city and better showcases the historical and cultural features of the Bund. In addition, this strategy improves the ecological environment of the Bund area and provides citizens with more opportunities to use public space, enhancing the quality of Shanghai's Bund core area. I believe that public spaces in cities should be open to citizens and have public activities regardless of how many citizens are involved. I think Shanghai should create more plazas, museums and other leisure-oriented tourist centers on the Bund to transform from a commercial operation to a public space for tourism and cultural exchange.”