Assessing and Addressing Undergraduate Writing

Kathleen L. Hull
Program Learning Outcomes

• Possess and apply fundamental anthropological knowledge, including terminology, concepts, intellectual traditions, and theoretical approaches
• Identify and analyze common topics of research shared by the sub-fields of anthropology
• Understand ethics and responsibility in the practice of anthropology and in our roles as citizens
• Recognize and appreciate what it means to be human and how ethnographic, archaeological, and biological knowledge contribute to that understanding
• Understand both qualitative and quantitative research methods as they apply to anthropological inquiry
• Possess skills to communicate anthropological knowledge effectively through writing, oral presentation, and data presentation in various formats for diverse audiences
Assessing Writing

• Direct Assessment
  – Two writing-intensive courses
    • ANTH 141 (Writing Narrative for Archaeology)
    • ANTH 172 (Ethnohistory)
  – Faculty calibration
  – Assessment
    • Fundamental Components (3 elements)
    • Ability to Communicate (3 elements)
## Table 1: Fundamental Concepts

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### Ability to Communicate

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Assessing Writing

• Indirect Assessment
  – Graduating senior survey
  • survey questions based on PLOs
Possible Solutions

• ANTH required course “writing lab”
  – led by writing instructor
• Writing-intensive capstone course
• Professionalization course
• WRI 117 (Writing for the Social Sciences)
Recommendations

• Multiple, direct assessments
  – Concepts/argument and basic skills
• Multiple, complementary solutions
  – sequence, timing
  – resource implications
• Program review