



CHALLENGES IN DEVELOPING WRITING EXPERTISE

Snapshots from the 2017 UCSC Graduate Student Survey

Evidence of Low Writing Proficiencies among Graduating PhD Students



About **1 in 3** report **low/no proficiency** in writing:

- ◆ Proposals to obtain funding
- ◆ Scholarly articles for publication
- ◆ Products for non-expert audiences

CHALLENGES

ACADEMIC WRITING

1 in 4 are NOT confident that they can **produce high-quality work**, or **express their ideas clearly and concisely**

WRITING PROCESS

1 in 3 are NOT confident that they can **overcome writer's block**, or **develop & follow timelines for drafts/revision**

LACK OF RESOURCES

1 in 2 are NOT confident about **how to seek help with their writing**

PRESUMED COMPETENCE

2 in 5 are NOT confident about **speaking to their advisor about their writing needs**

25% did not receive adequate guidance from their primary advisor in terms of writing organization, clarity, and grammar

Students who did receive adequate guidance reported significantly higher proficiencies across all written products

Interest in a Variety of Writing Resources

LISTS OF RESOURCES



26% interested

DAYTIME WRITING WORKSHOPS



20% interested

ONLINE TUTORIALS



20% interested

ONE-ON-ONE TUTORING



18% interested

DESIGNATED WRITING SPACES ON CAMPUS



17% interested

Divisional Differences in Writing Experiences & Needs

Percentage of advanced PhD students who have worked on...

