

The Writing Center: Usage Data for Fall 2010

Jason Weischedel ('11, Economics), Data Analyst

Carleton students make frequent use of the Writing Center

- The Writing Center staff conducted over 591 sessions this fall
- 63% of appointments were return visits
- 61% of students using the writing center were first years, 27% were sophomores, 4% were juniors and 8% were seniors

Students bring a variety of projects to the Writing Center

- Students came with projects from all departments, even foreign language and sciences
- 38% of visits from seniors were for applications, 5% for comps and 52% for essays
- 92% of projects were essays
- 57% of essays were 3-5 pages, 26% were 1-2 pages, 16% were 6-10 pages and 1% were over 20 pages
- 8% of students focused on other projects, such as the Writing Portfolio, Applications, Resumes, and Comps

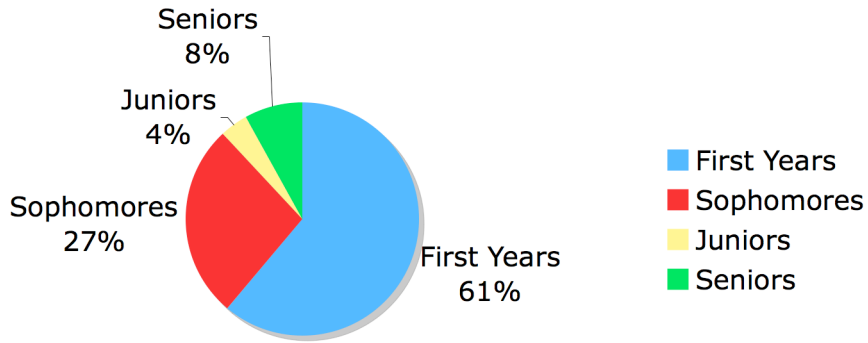
Students visit the Writing Center to make substantive improvements to their work

- Students mostly focused on issues of clarity (65%), organization (63%), and thesis (54%)
- A third of students made an appointment with the goal of better integrating support into their paper (32%)
- Students also made appointments in order to improve their writing skills in the long run: 21% visited for proofreading, 14% visited for help with citations and 7% visited for assistance with brainstorming.

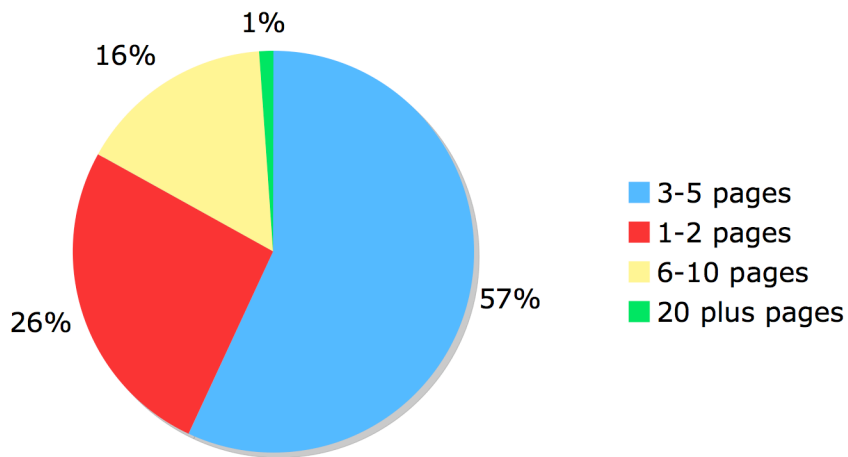
Students visited the Writing Center at different times during writing process

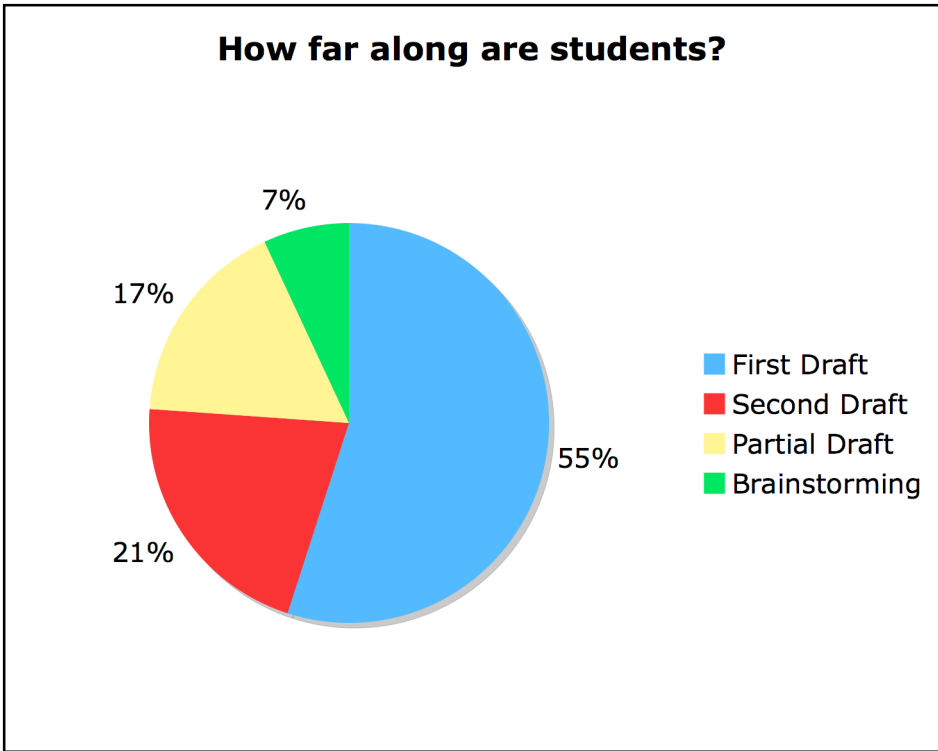
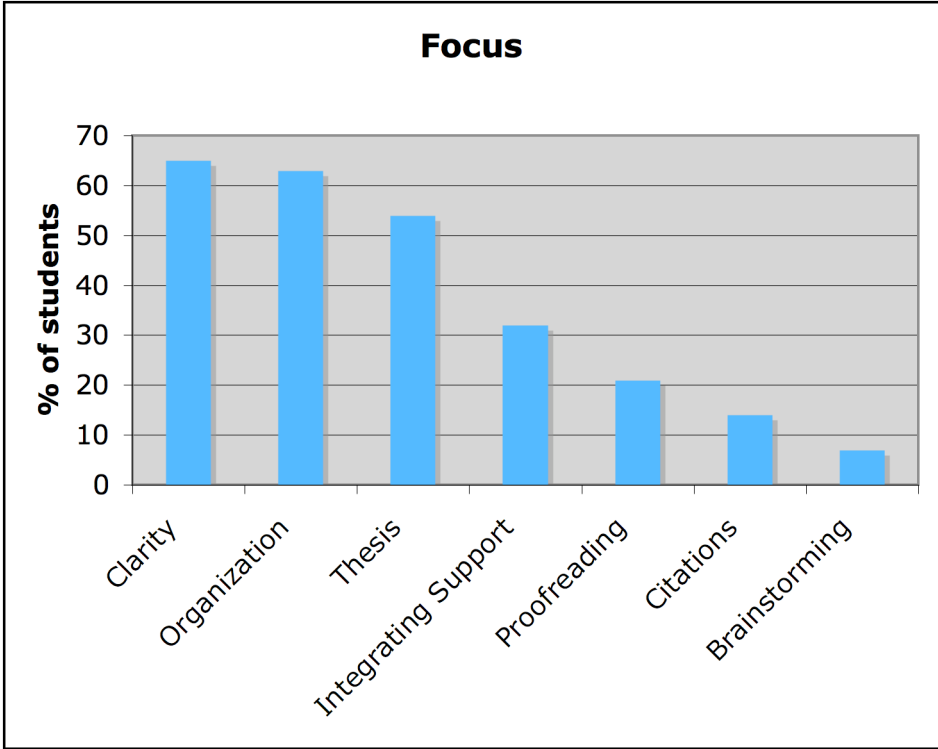
- 55% of students had written a first draft, 21% had written a second draft, 17% had written a partial draft and 7% came to start brainstorming
- The Writing Center is available even for last minute help: over a third of students visited on the day before their project was due (38%), over a fifth of students visited two days before the due date (23%), and 16% of students visited the day their project was due!
- Other students planned for long term goals: a fifth of students visited up to 7 days in advance (19%), and only 3% visited with more than a week to spare.

Distribution by Class Year



Page Length





When is the project due?

