

Development of Effective Writing Skills at CSSW: Survey  
*Columbia Social Work Review*  
Spring 2014

[Note: The survey was administered using Google Forms]

*The Columbia Social Work Review is exploring the topic of writing in graduate-level social work. The Editorial Board of the Review provides a forum for the exchange of ideas and experiences, and is inviting master's students to take a short survey. Your voluntary responses will contribute to a broader discussion at CSSW about the role of writing in the social work profession.*

*The Review created the questionnaire to explore how students experience the development of their writing skills at the graduate level. The Writing Center and the Office of Academic Affairs are facilitating the administration of the survey, which has approval from the Office of Student Services. The Review has ownership of the survey.*

*Please complete the survey below ONLY if you are currently a Master's level student at the School of Social Work. The survey should take approximately 6-8 minutes to complete and responses are confidential. For more information, visit <http://cswr.columbia.edu> or send an e-mail to [cswreview@gmail.com](mailto:cswreview@gmail.com) with questions or concerns.*

1 I am enrolled in...

- 2-year program
- 16-month
- Advanced standing
- Extended program
- Dual degree
- Reduced Residency

2 My method is...

- ACP
- AGPP
- Policy
- SEA
- Undecided

3 I am a....

- First Year
- Second Year
- Other \_\_\_\_\_

4 Is English your first language?  
(optional)

- Yes
- No

5 Are you an international student (i.e., with a F1, J1, etc. visa)?  
(optional)

- Yes
- No

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6 When you were deciding to pursue graduate study, how important or unimportant was it to develop your writing skills?

- Very important
- Somewhat Important
- A little important
- Not at all important
- Don't Know

7 Since you enrolled in CSSW, how often have you had to write the following (for coursework or your field placement) while a student at CSSW?

	Very Often	Sometimes	Rarely	Never	Don't Know
Academic paper	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Advocacy paper	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Case study/narrative	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Letter	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Opinion piece	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Process recording	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Program and proposal development	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Progress notes/documentation	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Policy brief, analysis, or memo	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Reflection piece	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

- 8 How would you rate the instruction that you received from your professors at CSSW for writing the following:

	Excellent	Good	Fair	Poor	Don't Know	n/a
Academic paper	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Advocacy paper	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Case study/narrative	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Letter	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Opinion piece	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Process recording	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Program and proposal development	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Progress notes/documentation	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Policy brief, analysis, or memo	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Reflection piece	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

- 9 In the five years immediately after completing your studies at CSSW, how often would you expect to complete the following written tasks in your career?

	Very Often	Sometimes	Rarely	Never	Don't Know
Academic paper	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Advocacy paper	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Case study/narrative	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Letter	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Opinion piece	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Process recording	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Program and proposal development	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Progress notes/documentation	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Policy brief, analysis, or memo	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Reflection piece	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

10 Overall, how would you rate the quality of instruction received at CSSW for the writing you expect to do in the five years immediately after completing your studies at CSSW?

- Excellent
- Good
- Fair
- Poor
- Don't Know

11 How would you rate the quality of feedback that you receive from instructors on your written assignments?

- Excellent
- Good
- Fair
- Poor
- Don't Know

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12 How important or unimportant do you believe it is for graduates of CSSW to possess the following writing skills:

	Very important	Somewhat important	A little important	Not at all important	Don't Know
Ability to articulate a clear thesis and write persuasively	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Ability to compile and analyze research	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Editing or proofreading skills	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Using professional language	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Using sensitive language	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Writing concisely and directly	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Writing in APA Style	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>



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15 How often have you used the following services at CSSW’s Writing Center since you enrolled in CSSW?

	Very Often	Sometimes	Rarely	Never	Don’t Know
One-on-one appointments	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Handouts	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Events	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Other Writing Center Services	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

16 If you have EVER used the Writing Center services this academic year (2013-2014), how helpful or unhelpful did you find the services you used?

	Very helpful	Somewhat helpful	A little helpful	Not at all helpful	Don’t Know	n/a
One-on-one appointments	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Handouts	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Events	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Other Writing Center Services	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

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17 Overall, how satisfied or dissatisfied are you with CSSW’s contribution to the development of your writing skills?

- Very Satisfied
- Somewhat Satisfied
- Somewhat Dissatisfied
- Very Dissatisfied

18 How much do you agree or disagree that CSSW should do more to help students develop their written communication skills?

- Strongly Agree
- Agree
- Disagree
- Strongly Disagree
- Don’t Know
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19 How helpful or unhelpful do you believe the following potential CSSW offerings/changes might be at helping students develop written communication skills?

	Very helpful	Somewhat helpful	A little helpful	Not at all helpful	Don't Know
A required course on writing in the social work profession	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
An optional course on writing in the social work profession	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
More class time devoted to developing writing skills	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Different assignments that better help students develop writing skills	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
More feedback on assignments from instructors	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

20 Do you have any other suggestions for new services or offerings at CSSW that would help students develop their written communication skills?

21 If you have any further comments on your experience developing writing skills at CSSW, please add your comments below.

22 If you are willing to be contacted by the Columbia Social Work Review to provide more information about your responses, please provide your e-mail below. The Review would contact you via e-mail and arrange a 15-20 minute interview over the phone or in person. (optional)

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

*Thank you for participating in this survey. Your answers will be helpful for the Columbia Social Work Review in developing recommendations to improve written communication skills among CSSW students. We greatly appreciate your time and effort.*

*If you have any questions about the survey, please e-mail [cswreview@gmail.com](mailto:cswreview@gmail.com). Thanks again*