2015 Summer Assessment Project

World of the Arts (WOTA)

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Description:

This will be a continuation of the “Signature Assignment” assessment begun by the World of the Arts faculty last fall of 2014. In this project, members of the WOTA Faculty and Instructional Academic Staff attended the General Education Signature Assignment initiative May 28 and June 5, 2014. In this first phase of the initiative, the WOTA faculty defined the purpose, design and characteristics of signature assignments in the general education program, and created processes and expectations for the course-level signature assignment.

The faculty discussed global concerns that stemmed from scoring the papers that were used for the signature assignment during Fall semester for 2014. These concerns included 1) lack of specificity in responses to template prompts, 2) some faculty noticed commonalities between several papers (plagiarism), and 3) concerns that the assignment may come too soon in the course and thus students are not adequately prepared to complete it (in Fall semester, most WOTA students are 1st-semester freshmen—this assignment was completed during the first five weeks of the term). The project was repeated in Spring of 2015 in order to gather additional data for comparison purposes.

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