

John Smith

Dr. Kathie Gossett

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### **Writing Assignment Analysis of Prompt B, *BIOL 160/ ENVS 110 Final Project***

Statistics is a discourse community that focuses on interpreting data collected usually from surveys, tests, research studies, and analyzing them to answer problems in various different fields. The writing assignment that I will be covering is pulled from the archive under the name “Prompt B” and it is written for the students in the course *BIOL 160/ ENVS 110*, and it focuses on the field of statistics. The students are tasked with conducting a survey related to Biology or Environmental Science to satisfy the data collection portion of the project and using that data to create graphs and tables to display the results. This writing assignment did not disclose any particular page length for the students to follow. Regarding the submission of the data that was collected, it was instructed that the students should submit a “csv file that contains all the data and a single R script containing all of the analysis”(Prompt B, pg. 2). The students are being asked to do this to experience what it feels to administer your own survey and to gather your own data. They are expected to utilize all of the accumulated knowledge throughout the entire course to complete this project.

The writing prompt was concise and direct, it covered what the research paper should consist and how it should be structured. The paper is divided into four sections; the introduction which explains the type of survey that was conducted and the research questions that were

presented, the methods section which describes the methods in data collection and statistical analysis, the results section which mainly focuses on the results or the outcome of the survey, and the last section which is referred to as the discussion section is the part where all the questions of their peers are answered. The paper was divided in this format to resemble a scientific journal. Sourcing the writing prompt, the professor provided a key point or a main objective to guide the students to the right path; “You will want to include both categorical (nominal) and continuous predictor AND response variables to maximize the variety of statistical techniques you can apply...” (Prompt B, pg. 2). Incorporating “The Method” to further analyze this writing assignment, the first step is to develop some strands. Repeating words or synonyms like: data, graphs, tables, environmental science, and analysis reveal the true intentions of the whole assignment. Students are expected to conduct a survey that involves anything that is related to Biology and Environmental Science and the results will serve as the basis for their research paper. Since this is a course that deals with numbers and data, their writing will be accompanied by visual aids such as graphs and charts. Statistics is unique to other discourse communities because the whole field mainly focuses on organizing and interpreting data that has been collected; this results in their writing to be heavily reliant on visual aids.

One thing that I noticed in both of the writing prompts I covered was that communication is encouraged because all the members in the discourse communities are working together towards one goal. On the contrary, discourse communities like statistics are producing research papers that help deal with global issues. It is important for their writing to be universal so that it is not exclusive to the members of that community, regular people should be able to comprehend the message that is being conveyed to them with clarity. This implicitly reveals the individual

features of the writing practices within the statistics discourse community, removing jargon will help deliver their message thoroughly to the general public. Writing is universal and it is used to communicate ideas between other disciplines, the only difference is the type of field that is being covered.