Background:
In Spring 2014, three sections of English 151RW were piloted at Ohlone. English 151RW is a 5-unit combined English 151B (one-level-below-transfer developmental writing) and English 163 (one-level-below-transfer developmental reading). English 151RW is designed to move students through Basic Skills more quickly and to offer rigorous reading and writing challenge on the level of English 101A (but with more instructor support). It is our expectation that English 151RW prepares students to succeed in English 101A and beyond.

1. Number and name of the course being assessed:
English 151RW: Introduction to College Reading & Writing

2. List all the Course SLOs from the Course Outline of Record:
By the end of the course, students will be able to:
   1. Determine the main idea and organizational pattern in various types of readings.
   2. Demonstrate the ability to read analytically, identify main and supporting ideas, and evaluate evidence.
   3. Develop college-level academic vocabulary, and apply strategies for comprehending and remembering texts.
   4. Analyze, evaluate, and synthesize information from texts in writing.
   5. Write well-organized and well-developed paragraphs and essays with supporting evidence and correct documentation.
   6. Apply correct punctuation, grammar and sentence structure in writing.

3. If you have had any dialogue about the Course SLOs amongst faculty who teach this course, please describe it here (leave blank if there has been no specific dialogue):
There has been no new dialogue since the course was created in 2013.

4. List the SLO(s) you are assessing in this particular instance:
   4. Analyze, evaluate, and synthesize information from texts in writing.
   5. Write well-organized and well-developed paragraphs and essays with supporting evidence and correct documentation.

5. Describe the assessment strategy or tool that addresses the SLO(s):
We used the last essay of the semester to assess the SLOs listed above. For each student’s essay, we judged each SLO as “Exceeding Expectations,” “Meeting Expectations” or “Not Meeting Expectations.”

6. Describe how the criteria or standards in this assessment tool link to the SLO(s) being assessed:
The essay being assessed was a 101A-level argumentative essay (4-6 pages in length) that required students to defend a thesis by synthesizing multiple readings. To be successful, the essay needed to show strong reading (including critical reading) and essay-writing skills.
Prompt: What made the author Wes Moore traditionally successful while the other Wes
Moore spends his life in prison?

See below for examples:

SLO 4: Analyze, evaluate, synthesize information from texts in writing

**Exceeds Expectations:**
- analyzes or evaluates the information by explaining how the information relates to the essay’s thesis or to the main point of the paragraph
- synthesizes the information by making appropriate comparisons or contrasts between texts or between characters within a text
- synthesizes by drawing on texts or concepts outside of the primary text

**Example** (1st body paragraph in a 8 paragraph essay):

The important figures who the author Wes Moore encountered at the turning points of his life were essential since they helped him to figure out the correct direction towards success. The author Wes Moore’s mother—Joy—was an important role in Wes’ life. Joy kept close eye on her children’s education, and she never gave up on her son. Even though Wes got bad grades in Riverdale, which was an expensive private school in Bronx, Joy still gave Wes another chance—Valley Forge. In order to raise the money that sent Wes Moore to Valley Forge military school, Joy “had written to family and friends, asking them to help her however they could” (95). Understandably, Joy’s decision—Valley Forge military school—was the cornerstone of the author Wes Moore’s success. The second important figure that the author Wes met in his life was Captain Hill. Captain Hill impacted Wes the most in the Valley Forge. “With the support of . . . Captain Hill, [he]’d actually started to enjoy military school” (115), and he began to think seriously about what kind of person he wanted to be. Since Captain Hill’s influence, Wes figured out the answer: the person who “wore the uniform of the United States of America” (132). Captain Hill helped Wes Moore figured out his goal of career, while the Mayor Schmoke was the person that directed him to find the real meaning of life. Before Wes went to South Africa, Mayor Schmoke introduced “Rhodes Scholarship,” and he required Wes Moore that make sure Wes understand the history of South Africa and who was Cecil Rhodes before he leaves. With Mayor Schmoke’s order, Wes started his journey in South Africa, and finally he got the true meaning of life: “Fighting for your convictions is important. But finding peace is paramount” (168). Joy, Captain Hill, and Mayor Schmoke were the important person who accompanied the author Wes Moore grew up and gave him positive guidance.

[Next body paragraph focuses on the other Wes Moore’s mother and two male role models: Tony, the older brother, and Bernard, the father]

*Comment: Although this paragraph does not draw on outside texts, the examples from the book are well chosen to address the question of success and to compare the two Wes Moores. Later in the essay, this student introduces the concept of intrinsic motivation.*

**Meets Expectations:**
Example (1st body paragraph in a 5 paragraph essay)

Both Wes Moore’s mother had similarities, which was that they both had an education. The other Wes Moore’s mom, Mary, “was the first in her family to even begin college” (17). The author Wes Moore mother, Joy went to college at the American University (8). This shows that both mothers were good examples to both their son’s for education. Even though both mothers had an education, both Wes Moore’s did not enjoy school, which lead the mom’s to make different decisions. When the author Wes Moore’s mom found out that her son was not doing well in school, she made the decision to send him away. The author Wes Moore didn’t think that his mom was actually going to send him away, so he started to question his mom on “how could she force me into the military school before I was even a teenager?” (90). Joy decision on sending him to military school lead him to become successful in education and in life. Meanwhile, the other Wes Moore was unsuccessful because when Tony, the other Wes brother, found out that his brother was selling drugs, he told his mom, she said “he is making money from DJing . . . and I believe him” (70-71). Mary was neglecting her son, so she didn’t know that he was dealing drugs until later on. Overall, both mother had an impact on their son’s lives.

[Next body paragraph examines the influence of the Wes Moores’ fathers on their lives]

Comment: Although the paragraph includes quotes and specific details about the two mothers, the paragraph begins as a comparison; only in the middle does the student focus the discussion on the success of each Wes Moore.

Does Not Meet Expectations:
- information included from texts is vague
- information included from texts is not accurate
- information from texts is not effectively analyzed because it does not clearly prove a point related to the topic sentence or thesis

Example (1st body paragraph in a 5 paragraph essay)

Nurture is based on the idea of how a person was raised in their house with usually family. When it comes to the boys’ mothers, Wes Moore’s mom was a little more strict on him in the sense that she pounded the rules into his head which made him more aware of what’s right and what’s wrong. The other Wes Moore’s mom on the other hand was more carefree about what her son did which gave him the idea that he could get away with whatever. With being strict it can help keep Wes Moore out of trouble. Being carefree can make the other Wes Moore more law breaking because he feels like he can just get away with it. This is an example that shows how their mothers were to them and why at a young age one was more
sheltered while the other went out a whole lot more.

[Next body paragraph describes further the two mothers’ influences and actions.]

*Comment:* Although this paragraph contrasts the two Wes Moores’ mothers, the information is vague and paragraph concludes with a weak link to the thesis.

### SLO 5: Write well-organized and well-developed paragraphs and essays with supporting evidence and correct documentation

**Exceeds Expectations:**
- essay clearly organized to support the thesis
- body paragraphs include multiple examples, details, and quotes
- evidence supports the thesis
- quotes are cited with parenthetical citations

**Example** (first 3 paragraphs of a 7 paragraph essay)

The novel *The Other Wes Moore* was written by a man named Wes Moore to narrate his story on how he became successful, and about this convict that is also named Wes Moore. They both had absent fathers as they grew up, raised by their own mothers, and they came from the same neighborhood. The author Wes Moore questions how two people share very similar backgrounds can end up in different positions in life. It becomes clear in the book that each Wes Moore grew up in different environments with different kinds of people in their house, even if they are both from the Bronx. The author Wes Moore was surrounded by family members who wanted to see him become a good man, while the other Wes Moore was a lost man who does not have a stable guardian, or family members, to guide him. To answer the author’s question, he became traditionally successful due to his mother’s strong presence and guidance, and it is his growth mindset that encourages him to improve; whereas, the other Wes Moore looks at his brother as his only role model, his father is alive but absent, and its his fixed mindset that does not help him in improving.

The author Wes Moore was raised by his mother, Joy, and she is the reason to how the author became the man that he is today. Joy is a smart woman and the author proves that throughout his book. One of the actions Joy made is she sent Wes off to military school when she noticed that she can no longer see any improvement in her son’s academic performance, and his behavior. She has sacrificed a lot and the fact that “military school is not free” (95) did not stop her from asking their family and friends to help. Joy does not only want her son to have a great future, but she wants Wes to learn how to treat other people, especially women. She wants to teach Wes “what is acceptable and what is not!” (6). Joy said that when Wes was three-years-old right after he punched his older sister, Nikki. It is a typical factor that the mom has a great influence on the author Wes Moore, but her influence has been imprinted into Wes’ mindset.

Wes has a growth mindset, and this is the reason why he is not judgmental. An example is given when he first explored the Bronx on his own, “I took my time getting to the courts . . ., but I also tried my best to absorb the new neighborhood” (43). He noticed that the Bronx looked like “in its post apocalyptic phase,” yet he still went back to the basketball courts after that day. It can be proven that Joy has impacted the way he thinks. An example is when
Wes and his friend were caught by the police, and Wes does not react arrogantly like Shea, but he worries about his mother. He did not want his only “stalwart supporter” to give up on him. The author Wes Moore looks at his mother as somebody he does not want to disappoint, yet, as a teenager he experienced internal conflicts that debated whether to have fun, or follow his mother’s rules. That growth mindset and his mother’s influence shined through when he listened to his mother’s order to stay in military school. That is the place where he developed into a well-mannered man, and appreciated his mother’s actions.  

[Essay continues to discuss the other Wes Moore’s brother (influencing Wes to be violent); the other Wes Moore’s father (especially how the father “left tragic imprint on Wes’ subconscious); and how the other Wes Moore has a fixed mindset]  

Comment: Essay begins with a clear and complex thesis. Each body paragraph works to support an aspect of the thesis and includes several examples to support the main points. Incorporation of fixed vs. growth mindset and how parents “imprinted” their thinking on their sons goes beyond the typical analysis.  

Meets Expectations:  
- essay organized to support the thesis, but may use a predictable 5-paragraph essay structure without a strong connection from one body paragraph to the next  
- body paragraphs include multiple examples, details, and quotes, but may not be as much evidence or evidence may not be as well organized as in an essay that exceeds expectations  
- most evidence supports the thesis  
- quotes are usually, but not always, cited with parenthetical citations  

Example (first 2 paragraphs of a 4 paragraph essay)  

In the book “The Other Wes Moore” by Wes Moore, two people named Wes Moore have two different fates. The author Wes Moore became a Rhodes Scholar, a veteran, and a business leader. The other Wes Moore, however, became a convicted murderer who has a life sentence. How did one become more successful? The author Wes Moore became more successful than the other Wes Moore because the author had more positive influences from his family and surroundings.  

Unlike the other Wes Moore, the author Wes Moore had a mother who cared and influenced him to make the right decisions. Author Wes Moore’s mom Joy, a strict but caring mother, noticed when Wes made poor decisions in school like having “bad grades, absence from classes, and an incident with a smoke bomb” (87). It all built up when finally Joy decided it was time that she could no longer take care of Wes alone. She decided to force Wes to attend military school. On the other hand, Mary, the other Wes Moore’s mother, was very absent to her son’s life. Mary had a job and attended college to try and complete her bachelor’s degree. But, whenever she wanted to have fun and relieve stress, Joy “and a couple of her friends would had out to Thirty-second Street Plaza, a popular nightclub where Mary knew the owner” (19). Instead of taking care of her two sons, she would rather have a good time dancing in the club. Wes was the youngest out of the two, and his older brother Tony was 17 when Wes was 12. Tony was a drug dealer at the age of 10, but he “felt his brother’s life could be saved,” even if he “felt his own already . . . passed
the point of no return” (22). Tony did the best he could do as a young older brother, but they never had a father figure in their lives. The closest thing the other Wes Moore had as a father was Tony, but Tony was still young and not as wise. So Wes still wanted to be tough like Tony and still wanted to become a drug dealer. The author Wes Moore, on the other hand, had two smart sisters and his father passed away when Wes was still young. Even if the author, Wes Moore was young, he still knew how respectable his father once was and influenced, as any young boy is, by his father.

[Essay continues with a long paragraph about both Wes Moores: military school vs. selling drugs on the streets, then a conclusion.]

Comments: Essay has a clear thesis and the first body paragraph includes many details, quotes, examples to support that thesis—but evidence is not consistently well organized (especially at end of paragraph) nor is it always clear how evidence explains why one Wes Moore was more successful than the other.

Does Not Meet Expectations:
- essay not well organized to support the thesis
- body paragraphs include some examples, details, and quotes, but may not be much evidence or evidence may not be as well organized
- evidence does not consistently support the thesis
- quotes are not cited with parenthetical citations

Example (first 2 paragraphs of a 4 paragraph essay)

What made one Wes Moore more successful than the other? There are many answers to this question, but I am going to stick with the main reason of their families. Someone’s family has a lot of impact on their life and helps them decide on doing what is wrong or what is right for themselves. In the book “The Other Wes Moore,” by Wes Moore, two boys grow up with completely different lifestyles but have the same name. How did one grow up to be a business leader while the other ended up a convicted murder serving life sentence?

Author Wes Moore grew up in the same neighborhood as the other Wes Moore with the same lifestyle but having different families. Author Wes Moore’s family was always there for him. For example, when Wes was sitting in the car with his mother, he was rapping along to the radio word for word. His mother made the comment of being lazy with school work and not taking the time to memorize that, but cannot memorize his school work. Wes kept complaining that he was stupid but his mother always fought back stating that he was lazy and not stupid. Not only was Wes Moore’s mother there for him, but so were his siblings. Wes used to get off the bus to go to school and walk the other direction and not attend school. Even though his siblings saw this everyday and they knew that it was a bad decision, they would never tell on him. This is a huge difference between author Wes Moore and the other Wes Moore because even when choosing to do the wrong thing, his family always stood by his side and would try to help him out. That is what a family should do.

[Essay includes another paragraph of similar length about the other Wes Moore’s family—how they were not always there for him—with two examples, then a conclusion.]
Comments: Essay has a rather vague thesis (family has an impact) and while the first body paragraph focuses on family, it gives only two examples; the second example does not convincingly show how Wes Moore’s family helped him be successful.

7. By looking holistically at the results from all students, describe your findings:

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<th>Exceeds Expectations</th>
<th>Meets Expectations</th>
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<td>Analyze, evaluate, and synthesize information from texts in writing.</td>
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<td>Write well-organized and well-developed paragraphs and essays with supporting evidence and correct documentation.</td>
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We found that overall students met expectations in writing this essay, though we would like to see fewer students “Not Meeting Expectations.” There did not seem to be any particular imbalance between student success in reading and in writing. The results were very encouraging overall.

8. Describe faculty dialogue (if any) involved in the assessment process:
We discussed our standards and shared examples in order to clarify what was meeting expectations and what was not.

9. Based on an analysis of your findings and dialogue, describe revisions (if any) in curriculum or teaching strategies to be implemented to promote student success:
In the spring, many students enrolled in English 151RW-01 were international students or non-native speakers of English. A dedicated tutor was enlisted as support for these students. In the fall of 2014, a request was made for an embedded tutor to work in class and outside of class with students, especially non-native speakers, to improve their reading and writing skills, and fluency in English. We feel the support of an embedded tutor is important, if not essential, to the success of struggling students in this class.