

My Students Write a Research Paper (and yours can, too).

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Essex County College

- Open-access public 2-year college
- 50% Black, 30% Latino, 10% White
- 75% of full-time students and 60% of all students are Pell-eligible

Math 101: Statistics and Probability I

This course provides introduction to the basic ideas and methods of collecting, representing and analyzing data to report findings using elementary techniques from statistics and probability. Topics include the following: frequency distributions; histograms and frequency polygons; measures of central tendency and variability; conditional probability; percentiles; Z-scores; normal and binomial distributions, confidence intervals; hypothesis testing; regression and correlation.

Prerequisite: Elementary algebra (Solving linear equations, graphing lines, factoring polynomials)

Math 101 Students

- 20-40% nursing and allied health majors
- Lots of social science majors, also (psychology, criminal justice, etc.)
- Students range from new freshmen to graduating students, working adults or post-baccalaureate returning students
- Wide range of reading and writing ability and experience
- How to manage it?

SCAFFOLDING AND SUPPORT

Students require structure and support

- Give explicit (but flexible) instructions
- Devote some class time to research and exploration.
- Collect a proposal early in the semester
- Collect a first draft, and provide commentary

Now, let's look at my assignment description, and then a sample paper

Your Turn: Think Pair Share

- What are your goals in assigning a paper? What do you want your students to learn from the process?
- What obstacles do you see? (If you've done it before, what obstacles have you encountered?) How can you support your students to overcome them?