
From: Muata Kamdibe
Sent: Tuesday, November 06, 2012 6:42 PM
To: Lorraine Sfeir; Joann Springer; Dana Vazquez; Alonso Garcia
Subject: Reason We're 86ing the Common Final

Hey All,

OK, below is what I've typed in the Course Update form that Fran said we need to submit to eliminate the Common Final. PLEASE, feel free to change, add, or suggest ANY changes you feel will help pass this through Curriculum. There's ZERO ego involved in this, so here ya go:

The Common Final is an antiquated method of evaluation that no longer supports the English department's current pedagogical approach to teaching and evaluating developmental composition using a more holistic process, which is centered on revision. While the Common Final has served as the main evaluation tool in determining if English 30 students are ready for the next composition level (i.e., 35 or 101), it does so based on a timed essay that does not allow students the opportunity to adequately revise their essays. This is problematic considering developmental composition is taught as a process of constant drafting and revising. In addition, a student who is not truly prepared for the next level of composition can move on by simply passing the Common Final even if his/her instructor is certain that s/he is not ready. The only recourse of action the instructor may use in such a case is to give the student NP for the class; however, the student would still be eligible to enroll in English 35, and in rare cases English 101.

By removing the Common Final, the instructor of record in each section of English 30 will not only be able to evaluate his/her students based on their classwork, but s/he will now have full control over whether or not their students pass on to the next class.

Finally, the Common Midterm should be removed from the list of optional Methods of Evaluation because it is based on the Common Final and uses the same timed format.

Thanks,
Muata