De Anza College Office of Institutional Research and Planning

To: Thomas Ray, Dean of Language Arts

From: Mallory Newell, De Anza Researcher

Date: 11/8/2013

Subject: EWRT1A and ELIT10

The Language Arts division requested to explore: If EWRT1A was added as a prerequisite to ELIT10, how many students would this affect? And, what is the success of students in ELIT10 that take EWRT1A prior?

ELIT10: Introduction to Fiction Intensive is a class focused on the intensive study of fiction; reading, discussion and analysis of structure and meaning in selected novels and short stories. EWRT1A: Composition and Reading is an introduction to university level reading and writing, with an emphasis on analysis. The course closely examines a variety of texts (personal, popular, literary, professional, academic) from culturally diverse traditions. Students practice common rhetorical strategies used in academic writing, and, composition of clear, well-organized, and well-developed essays, with varying purposes and differing audiences, from personal to academic.

Methodology: Students who enrolled in ELIT10 and EWRT1A over five academic years, between 2008-09 and 2012-13, including summer terms, were tracked. Only the first attempt of the ELIT10 course was included while the last attempt of the EWRT1A course was included. Success is A, B, C or P grades while non success is D, F, NP or I grades while withdraw is W grades.

Figure 1 below displays the distribution of students who took ELIT10 over the time frame.

Figure 1. ELIT10 Students – Enrollment in EWRT1A

Took ELIT10	Took EWRT1A and ELIT10	% Took EWRT1A and ELIT10	Did not take EWRT1A but took ELIT10	% Did not take a EWRT1A but took ELIT10	Took EWRT1A Prior to ELIT10	% Took EWRT1A Prior to ELIT10
784	345	44%	439	56%	184	23%

- 784 students took ELIT10 over the time frame.

- 44% (345) of students took ELIT10 and EWRT1A before, during or after taking ELIT10.

- 56% (439) of students did not take EWRT1A at De Anza during the time period but took ELIT10.

- 23% (184) of students took EWRT1A prior to enrolling in ELIT10.

- 136 took EWRT1A after ELIT10 and 25 students took EWRT1A at the same time as ELIT10.

Figure 2 displays the success rates of students in ELIT10 based on their enrollment in EWRT1A.

Figure 2. ELIT10 Success Rates Based on EWRT1A Enrollment

	Success		Non Success		Withdraw		Total	
	Grades	Percent	Grades	Percent	Grades	Percent	Grades	Percent
EWRT1A Pre	156	85%	8	4%	20	11%	184	100%
EWRT1A Post	112	82%	12	9%	12	9%	136	100%
EWRT1A Concurrent	20	80%	1	4%	4	16%	25	100%
No EWRT1A Course	273	62%	80	18%	86	20%	439	100%
Total	561	72%	101	13%	122	16%	784	100%

- Students who enrolled in EWRT1A prior to taking ELIT10 exhibited a success rate of 85%.

- Of the 136 students who took EWRT1A after ELIT10, their success in ELIT10 was 82%.

- Students who took EWRT1A while taking ELIT10 exhibited a success rate of 80%.

- Students who did not take EWRT1A and took ELIT1o exhibited success rates of 62%.

- There is a significant difference at the .10 level between the success rates of students who took EWRT1A prior to ELIT10 and students who did not take EWRT1A and took ELIT10.

- The similar success rates exhibited by students who took EWRT1A after ELIT10 is likely a result of the type of student rather than the course content in ELIT10. The students who take EWRT1A after ELIT10 likely intend to transfer and therefore are better prepared students than those who did not take EWRT1A at all. Additional research would be necessary to better understand these student populations.