

De Anza College Office of Institutional Research and Planning

To: English Department, ESL Department, Counseling, and International Students Programs

From: Mallory Newell, De Anza Researcher

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Subject: Language Arts Survey for Placement

The Language Arts Department established a survey which is required for all new first-time English and ESL test takers. If a student is re-testing, they are not given the survey a second time. The survey is a 10 item computerized survey. The results provide a recommendation for either the English or ESL test. After receiving the results from the Language Arts Survey, if a student disagrees with or is unsure about the survey result, they may speak with their proctor before taking the recommended ESL or English test. Once the student takes the ESL test and receives an ESL placement, they must enroll in an ESL course and may not take an EWRT course until they have successfully completed the two-levels below transfer level ESL course.

This analysis includes the survey results of students who took the survey between winter 2016 and winter 2018. This resulted in 8,312 responses. Student responses were matched to enrollment in either an ESL or EWRT course at De Anza by winter 2018. Of the 8,312 students who took the survey, 5,293 enrolled in a course during the timeframe with 25% into an ESL course and 75% in an EWRT course. Table 1 displays the 10 items in the survey.

Findings:

- Overall, the survey appears to be doing a good job of directing students to either the ESL or English tests. However, the survey is not correlated with success in the course which placed, therefore, it should not be used as a multiple measure to place students into levels of EWRT or ESL.
- Questions 4 (One or both of my parents is a native speaker of English) and 8 (When I do homework in English, I write in another language first then translate into English) are the weakest in regards to low response rates, and could be dropped from the survey.
- All students, regardless of whether they were placed into EWRT or ESL courses, reported “The best English class for me is one designed for native English speakers.”

Table 1. Survey Questions

Question	Question Scale	Question
1	Yes, No	I spoke English first when I was growing up.
2	Always, Most of the time, Hardly ever, Never	I speak English at home with my family.
3	Always, Most of the time, Hardly ever, Never, I have never had a job	I speak English at work.
4	Yes, No	One or both of my parents is a native speaker of English.
5	Yes, No	I finished four or more years of education in schools where all my subjects were taught in English
6	Yes, No	I attended all four years of high school in the United States.
7	Always, Most of the time, Hardly ever, Never	I use English when I write email, text or use social media (like Facebook, Twitter or Instagram).
8	All the time, Most of the time, Only a few words, Never	When I do homework in English, I write in another language first and then translate into English.
9	Always, Most of the time, Hardly ever, Never	When I read something that is not for a class assignment, I choose books or magazines in English.
10	Yes, No	The best English class for me is one designed for native English speakers.

Table 2. Question Responses by Course Overall

	ESL005	EWRT1A	EWRT1B	EWRT2	EWRT30	ESL272	ESL273	EWRT200	EWRT211	ESL261	ESL262	ESL263	ESL252	ESL251	ESL253	ESL244	ESL234
Q1	9%	66%	70%	64%	76%	11%	10%	52%	60%	10%	10%	9%	11%	11%	12%	15%	19%
Q2	27%	78%	80%	77%	90%	29%	28%	72%	76%	28%	28%	29%	27%	28%	28%	28%	27%
Q3	33%	76%	75%	74%	77%	37%	36%	82%	80%	36%	35%	37%	37%	37%	38%	41%	40%
Q4	4%	53%	56%	50%	62%	7%	8%	50%	51%	8%	8%	8%	11%	11%	11%	14%	17%
Q5	27%	91%	95%	91%	96%	28%	29%	91%	93%	28%	30%	28%	27%	30%	28%	33%	37%
Q6	6%	79%	84%	79%	86%	7%	6%	72%	82%	7%	8%	7%	7%	8%	8%	10%	13%
Q7	64%	94%	95%	94%	99%	64%	63%	92%	94%	61%	62%	62%	57%	58%	58%	57%	52%
Q8	22%	5%	4%	4%	2%	27%	27%	14%	6%	28%	28%	27%	34%	34%	33%	39%	45%
Q9	56%	90%	91%	91%	94%	54%	54%	83%	87%	53%	53%	54%	50%	51%	51%	51%	48%
Q10	58%	91%	92%	91%	92%	64%	64%	84%	86%	66%	64%	64%	66%	67%	67%	70%	71%
Key:	> 80%	> 70%	> 60%														

Table 2 presents the results to the survey broken out by individual courses.

- Overall, the survey does appear to be correctly directing students to either an ESL or EWRT course based on higher response rates for students in EWRT courses than ESL courses.
- There is a clear distinction in regards to answers to question 10 (The best English class for me is one designed for native English speakers) depending on if a student took an EWRT or an ESL course.
 - Students who took an EWRT course reported a high rate of indicating that the best English class for them is one designed for native English speakers.
 - Question 10 has the highest relationship to positive responses in almost all ESL levels. Students who took an ESL course reported rates above 64% even though they are placed in an ESL course, and students in 4 (ESL244) and 5 levels below transfer (ESL234) reported a rate of 70% or higher in regards to this question.
- Questions 2 (I speak English at home), 3 (I speak English at work), 5 (I finished 4 or more years of education in schools where all my subjects were taught in English), 7 (I use English when I write email, text or use social media) and 9 (When I read something that is not for a class assignment, I choose books or magazines in English) have the highest affirmative responses for students who took an EWRT course.
- Question 7 (I use English when I write email, text or use social media) and 10 have the highest affirmative responses for students in an ESL courses.

Table 4. Success and Non Success Rates by Course and Question

	EWRT1A										EWRT1B										ESL5									
	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q5	Q6	Q7	Q8	Q9	Q10	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q5	Q6	Q7	Q8	Q9	Q10	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q5	Q6	Q7	Q8	Q9	Q10
Non Success	72%	84%	82%	62%	96%	88%	96%	4%	91%	92%	78%	83%	79%	59%	97%	88%	97%	4%	90%	90%	0%	27%	23%	0%	23%	0%	66%	22%	67%	55%
Success	66%	78%	75%	52%	91%	78%	94%	4%	91%	92%	66%	78%	74%	53%	94%	83%	95%	4%	91%	93%	11%	27%	34%	5%	28%	6%	65%	19%	55%	59%
	EWRT2										EWRT200										EWRT211									
	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q5	Q6	Q7	Q8	Q9	Q10	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q5	Q6	Q7	Q8	Q9	Q10	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q5	Q6	Q7	Q8	Q9	Q10
Non Success	63%	80%	81%	54%	98%	88%	95%	1%	93%	92%	56%	74%	82%	54%	95%	79%	93%	14%	83%	76%	61%	77%	84%	55%	96%	89%	96%	5%	88%	85%
Success	65%	78%	74%	49%	90%	78%	95%	4%	91%	92%	48%	68%	79%	46%	85%	64%	88%	18%	80%	83%	61%	77%	79%	51%	93%	81%	94%	6%	88%	87%
	ESL234										ESL244										ESL251									
	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q5	Q6	Q7	Q8	Q9	Q10	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q5	Q6	Q7	Q8	Q9	Q10	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q5	Q6	Q7	Q8	Q9	Q10
Non Success	22%	28%	51%	16%	41%	25%	60%	42%	53%	66%	16%	26%	45%	10%	34%	15%	62%	40%	54%	73%	9%	23%	36%	15%	18%	5%	53%	34%	46%	57%
Success	18%	26%	38%	17%	34%	11%	51%	46%	47%	72%	15%	29%	41%	14%	32%	9%	56%	38%	51%	69%	11%	28%	36%	9%	28%	7%	58%	33%	51%	67%
	ESL252										ESL253										ESL261									
	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q5	Q6	Q7	Q8	Q9	Q10	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q5	Q6	Q7	Q8	Q9	Q10	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q5	Q6	Q7	Q8	Q9	Q10
Non Success	1%	26%	37%	15%	30%	10%	50%	34%	50%	63%	7%	29%	37%	14%	25%	9%	55%	32%	48%	65%	2%	32%	38%	11%	30%	9%	63%	22%	54%	60%
Success	12%	28%	37%	10%	30%	7%	59%	33%	51%	67%	12%	28%	37%	10%	28%	8%	58%	33%	51%	67%	10%	27%	34%	6%	28%	6%	61%	27%	52%	65%
	ESL262										ESL263										ESL272									
	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q5	Q6	Q7	Q8	Q9	Q10	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q5	Q6	Q7	Q8	Q9	Q10	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q5	Q6	Q7	Q8	Q9	Q10
Non Success	9%	27%	37%	11%	34%	11%	59%	26%	52%	61%	1%	34%	40%	7%	26%	7%	60%	23%	51%	72%	13%	33%	37%	10%	27%	6%	68%	30%	57%	60%
Success	9%	27%	33%	6%	28%	6%	62%	27%	53%	65%	9%	27%	35%	6%	28%	6%	62%	26%	54%	63%	8%	26%	36%	5%	25%	5%	63%	24%	53%	60%
	ESL273																													
	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q5	Q6	Q7	Q8	Q9	Q10	Key: > 80% > 70% > 60%																			
Non Success	11%	32%	42%	10%	34%	3%	66%	31%	54%	73%																				
Success	8%	26%	33%	5%	25%	5%	63%	23%	54%	61%																				

Table 4 displays the relationship between answers on the survey and if students passed or failed a course. In this case we are looking at average items scored for students who passed and students who did not pass a course.

- There seems to be an inverse relationship for all items at five levels below transfer (ESL234). That is students answered higher on the items if they failed the course. While that pattern could be expected for question 8 (I write in another language

first and then translate into English), we would expect the inverse relationship for item 1 (I speak English at home). That is the answers on the ESL survey negatively predict success in five levels below transfer level courses.

- There does not appear to be a relationship between any of the questions and whether a student was successful in the course which placed. For example, student who took an EWRT course had similar positive response rates to the survey regardless if they passed or did not pass the course.

Table 5. Correlations with Success in Course by Course Level

	One- Transfer- Level Level	Two Level Below	Three Levels Below	Four Levels Below	Five Levels Below	Six Levels Below	
q1	-0.043	-0.067	0.046	0.058	-0.013	-0.032	0.222
q2	-0.068	-0.082	-0.041	0.017	0.025	-0.028	-0.404
q3	-0.066	-0.097	-0.034	-0.002	-0.035	-0.103	-0.270
q4	-0.067	-0.082	-0.045	-0.054	0.047	0.010	-0.225
q5	-0.076	-0.118	-0.015	0.032	-0.013	-0.043	-0.144
q6	-0.090	-0.137	-0.044	-0.010	-0.057	-0.132	-0.288
q7	-0.042	-0.100	0.019	0.056	-0.063	-0.081	-0.400
q8	0.014	0.037	0.031	-0.001	-0.016	0.031	-0.161
q9	-0.008	-0.063	0.016	0.033	-0.031	-0.063	-0.123
q10	-0.003	-0.012	-0.007	0.037	-0.024	0.045	-0.154

correlations >.2
correlations <-.2

The correlations above look at the same information as Table 4 above, but in terms of correlations and not average scores. A positive correlation of 1.0 would show that there is a positive relationship between the survey question and success in the course at the course level.

- There is no correlation between the items and success at the course level that is greater or less than .2, in any course with the exception of six levels below.
- At six levels below, there is a positive relationship with Q1 and course success at six levels below transfer. There is a negative relationship with q2, q3, q4, q6 and q7 at six levels below transfer.
- Overall, there is little evidence that the survey predicts success in the course.