

# Peer Review Assessment Demonstrates Increased Confidence and Improved Writing Skills Among Online Graduate Students

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## RESULTS ON CONFIDENCE & UNDERSTANDING IN WRITING

SURVEY STATEMENT	PRE-TEST AVERAGE	POST-TEST AVERAGE
Having a peer review assessment of my writing sample enables me to become more confident in my writing skills.	5.7	6.0
I am confident in my ability to effectively use support material (quotations, examples, research) to strengthen my ideas in a paper.	5.9	6.0
Peer review exercises that I assess enables me to become more confident in my writing skills.	5.7	6.0
I am confident in my ability to paraphrase an idea for use in a paper.	5.7	6.0
After peer review exercises, I better understand the writing expectations for an online master's student.	5.5	5.8
I am confident that I know the rules for using sources well enough to avoid unintentional plagiarism.	6.0	6.1
Peer review exercises have changed the way I would write in future professional contexts.	5.5	5.6

1 = STRONGLY DISAGREE    4 = NEUTRAL    7 = STRONGLY AGREE



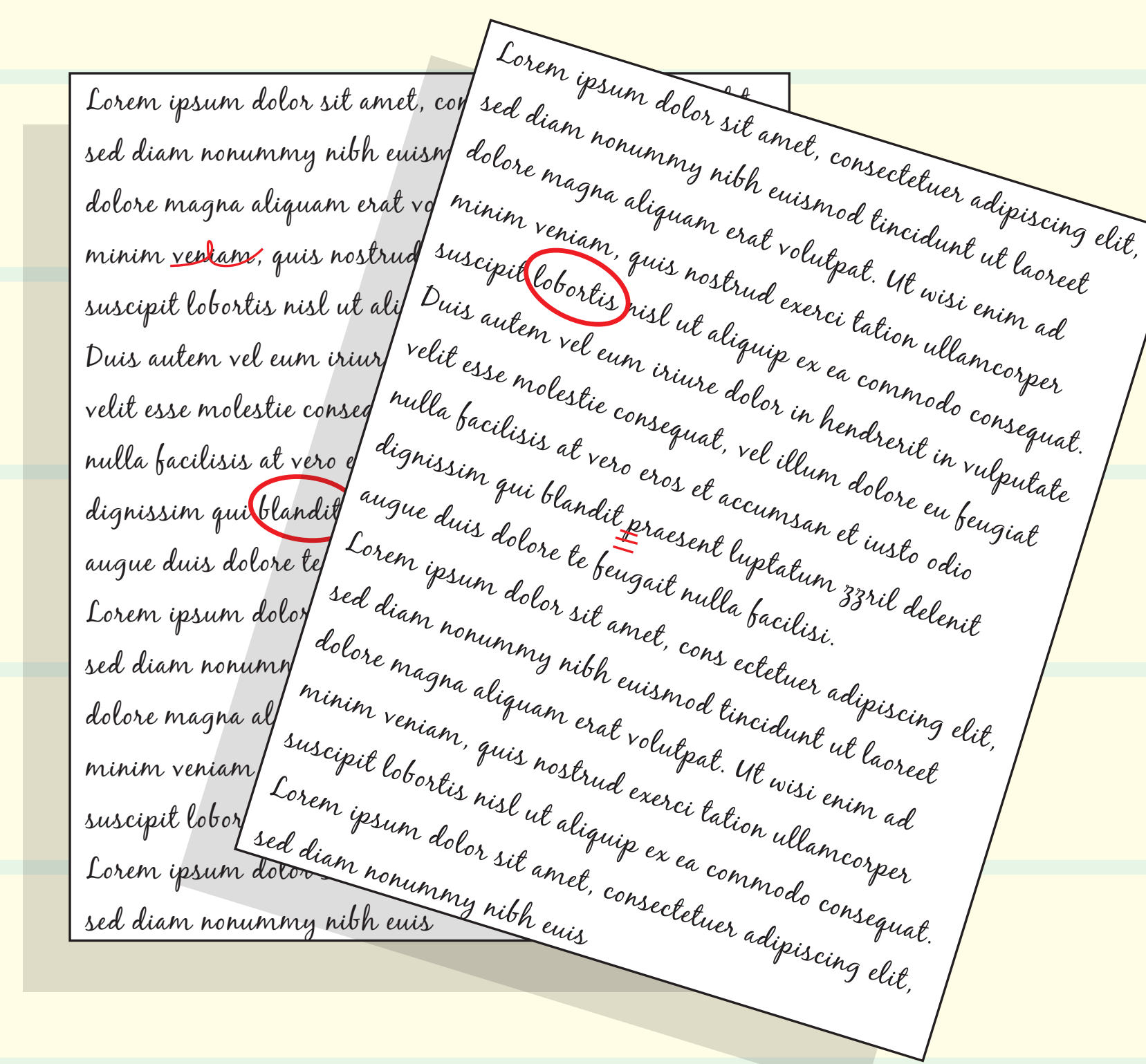
## THE PROBLEM:

Even with ample resources provided to them (i.e., a campus writing center, Turnitin, Grammarly), students continue to submit writing assignments that are difficult to comprehend. The authors realized that their observations are not unique, since according to John Warner (2018), "There seems to be widespread agreement that when it comes to the writing skills of college students... we are in the midst of a crisis" (p. 1). Several observations common between both programs are that students appear to lack confidence in their writing skills and consequently tend to overuse direct quotes along with the inability to express their own understanding of the assigned topic.

## THE RESEARCH DESIGN:

The study was conducted using 20 graduate students from the researcher's two distinct programs. The research questions were:

- (1) Does peer-review of writing during initial assignments increase the student's ability to identify ideal characteristics of skillful writing?
- (2) Does peer-review improve the student's self-perception, thus reporting a more confident attitude regarding their personal writing?



## THE RESULTS:

For the research question (1), the survey results showed no increase in the students' ability to identify ideal characteristics of skillful writing. However, the survey results for research question (2) indicated an increase in their response to how confident they were of their personal writing skills; this was further supported by the post-survey essay question in which **90% of the participants reported very positive experiences with the peer review process.**



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