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CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY, LOS ANGELES

Fourth Wave Writing Assessment: Implications and Implementations

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Four Waves of Writing Assessment

***Kathleen Blake Yancy*, "Looking Back as We Look Forward: Historicizing Writing Assessment as a Rhetorical Act." 1999.**

Brian Huot, *(Re)Articulating Writing Assessment for Teaching and Learning*. 2002.

- **First Wave: 1950-1970**

Indirect measures of writing proficiency such as objective tests.

- **Second Wave: 1970-1986**

Direct measures of student writing via timed writing exams .

- **Third Wave: 1986-?**

Direct, holistic scoring of a collection of work, such as a portfolio containing both revised texts and drafts of texts..

- **Fourth Wave: 2010?**

Brian Huot argues for direct writing assessment that delivers feedback to students; involves students; and synthesizes grading, assessment, and feedback.

Cal State LA Stretch Composition Pilot

2010-2013

- **Portfolio-Based**

Students submitted portfolios containing a cover letter, multiple essays, and essay drafts

- **Trend-based**

Assessment scores focused on discrete categories of writing such as development, research, focus, and style conventions

- **Student-based**

Students participated in writing assessment

- **Growth-based**

Students received assessment feedback and were asked to write reflections on that feedback

- **Grade-based**

Assessment scores figured in the course grades

The Rubric

- **Scores**

Challenging (5) - Advanced (4) – Meeting (3) – Approaching (2) – Developing (1)

Correlates to a four-point scale.

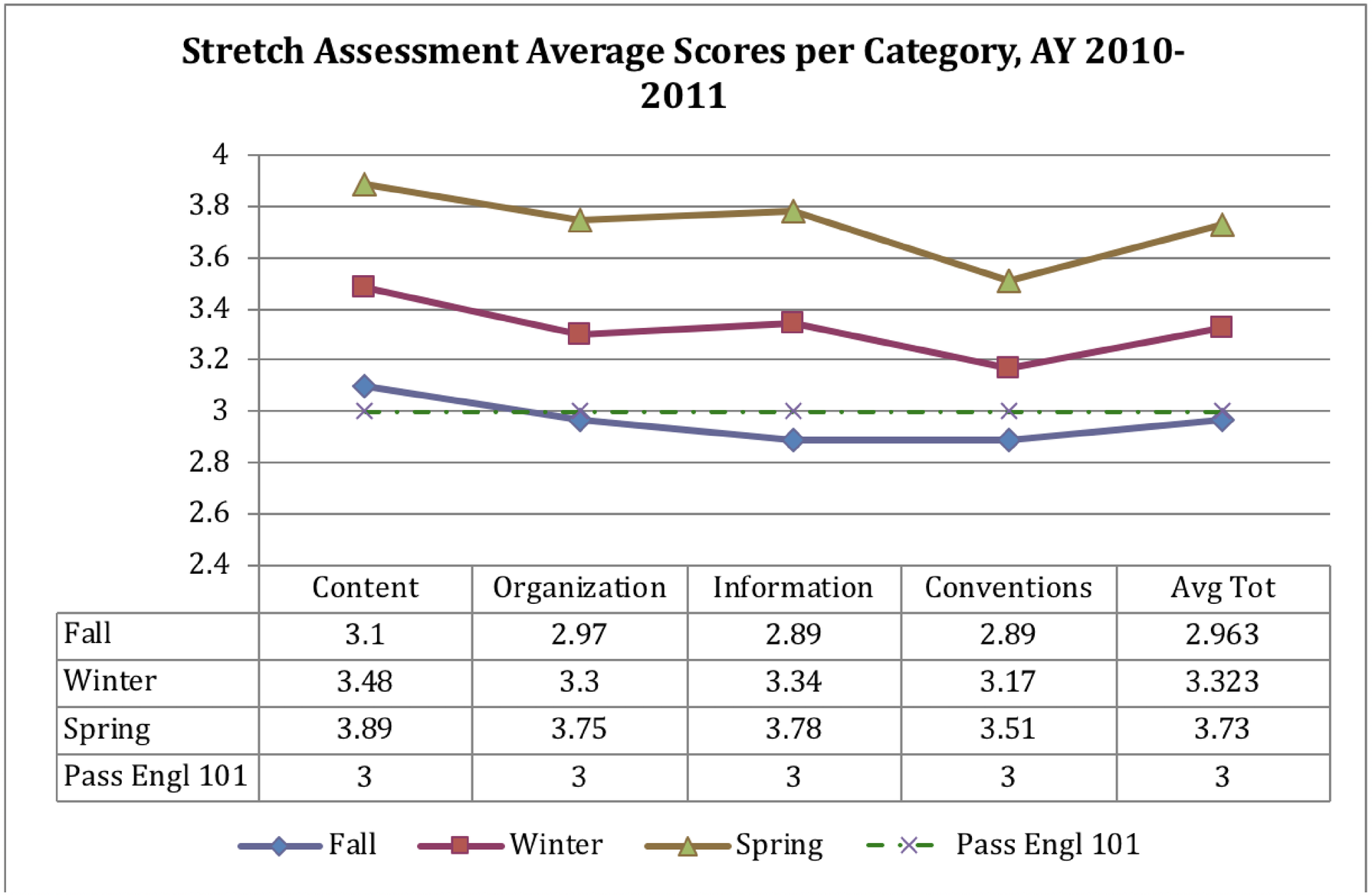
- **Categories**

Analysis (Content) – R&D (Use of Information) – Organization – Tone/Voice/Style (added in 2012) - Conventions

Results.1

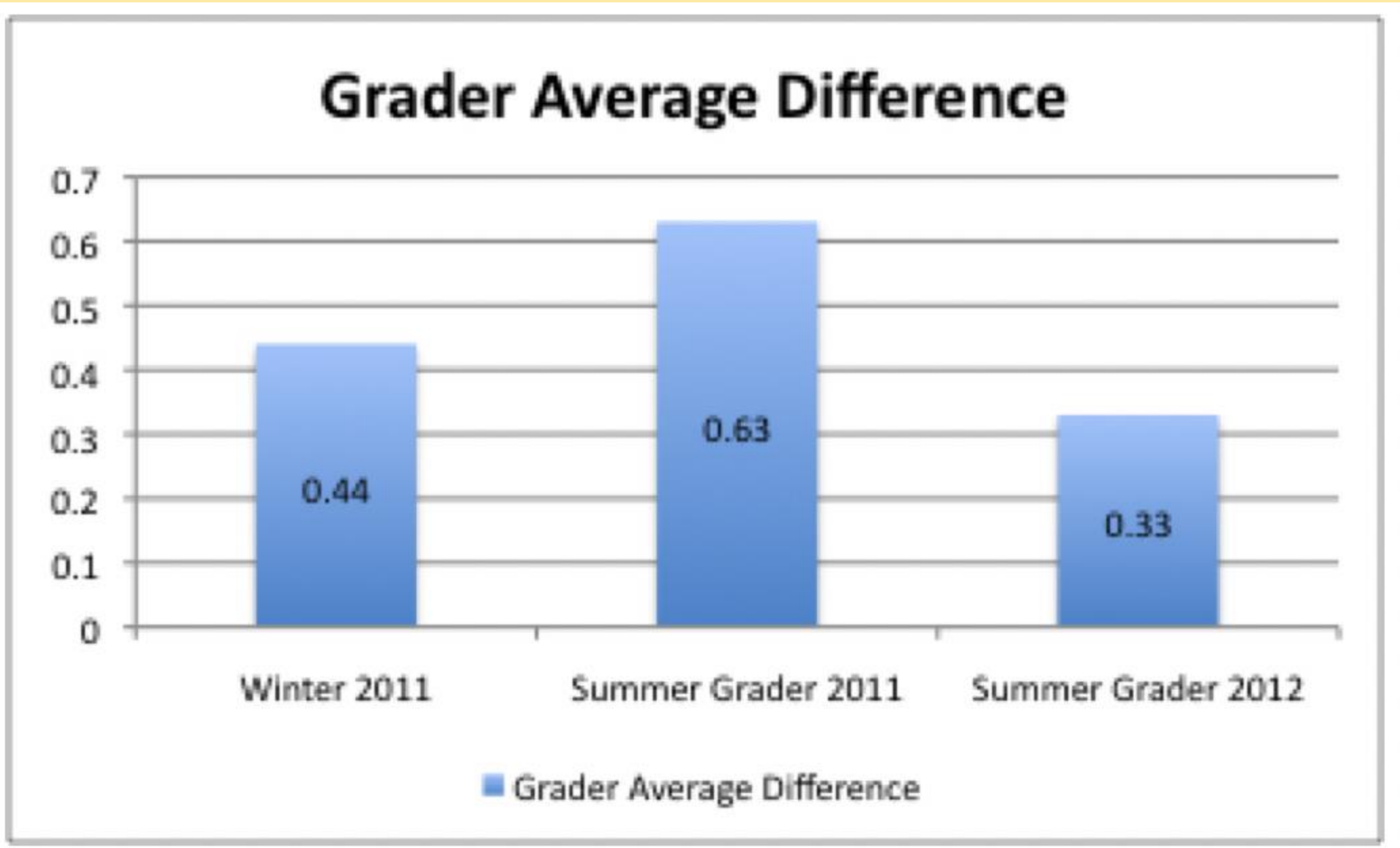
Assessment Results for all Students, 2011						
Term	**Content**	**Organization**	**Information**	**Conventions**	**Total**	**Avg.**
Fall	**3.10**	**2.97**	**2.89**	**2.89**	**11.85**	**2.96**
Winter	**3.48**	**3.30**	**3.34**	**3.17**	**13.29**	**3.32**
Difference	**.38**	**.33**	**.45**	**.28**	**1.44**	**.36**

Results.2

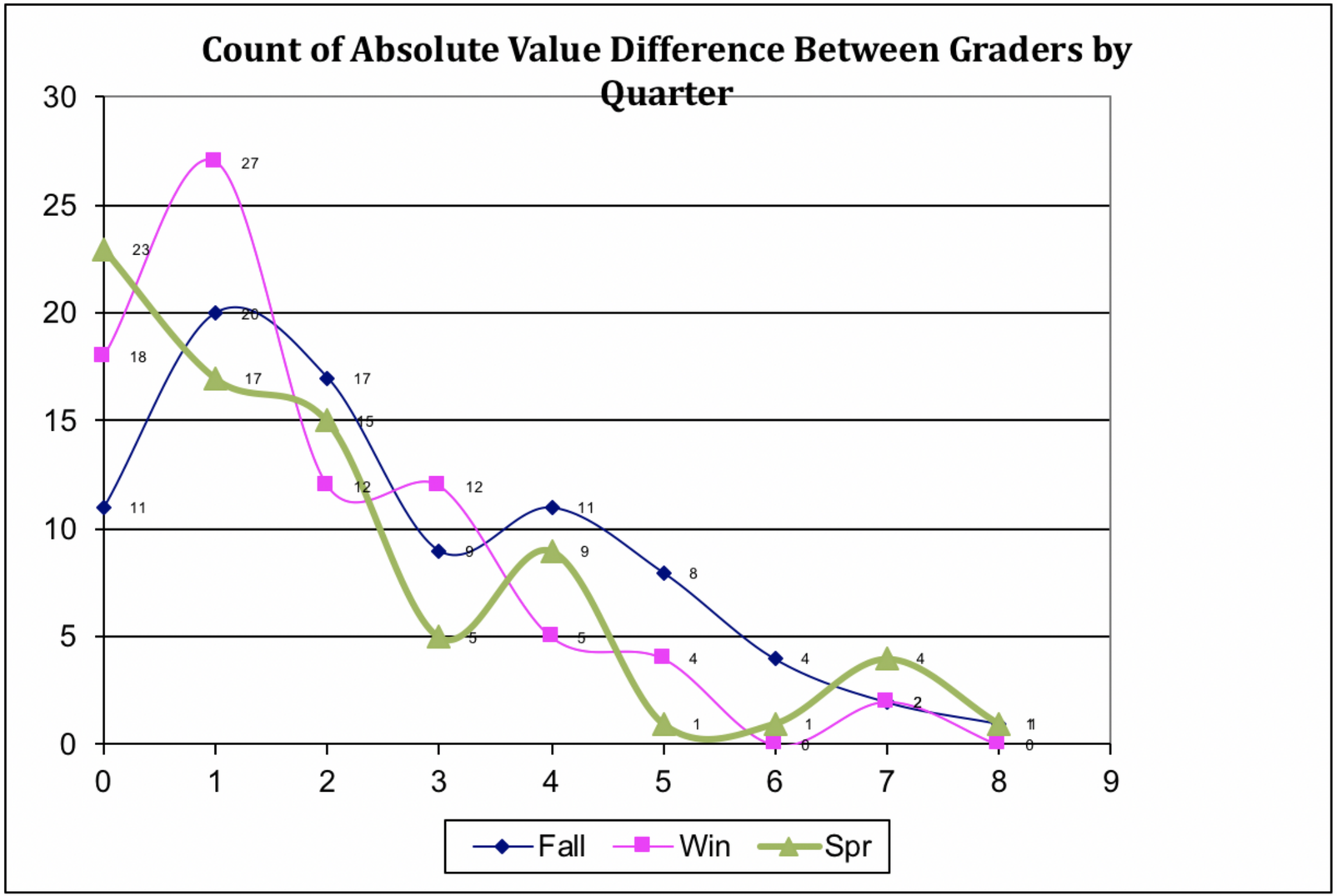


	Content	Organization	Information	Conventions	Avg Tot
Fall	3.1	2.97	2.89	2.89	2.963
Winter	3.48	3.3	3.34	3.17	3.323
Spring	3.89	3.75	3.78	3.51	3.73
Pass Engl 101	3	3	3	3	3

Validity.1


Grader Average Difference
0.7
0.6
0.5
0.4
0.3
0.2
0.1
0
0.44
0.63
0.33
Winter 2011
Summer Grader 2011
Summer Grader 2012
Grader Average Difference

Validity.2



A difference of 4 is considered a conflicting score and should later be reevaluated.



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