

## **Quick Studies of Student Writing: Disciplinary Writing Profiles**

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“Academic Writing across the Disciplines”

My aim is to introduce Disciplinary Writing Profiles (DWPs) which focus on assignments as texts, a complementary perspective to that presented by Paul Thompson who focused on the text of assignments and the possibilities of exploring it through Sketch Engine.

DWPs present a kind of ‘quick study’ of student writing in different disciplines that will accompany the BAWE corpus ([www.warwick.ac.uk/go/bawe](http://www.warwick.ac.uk/go/bawe)) .

They include the data on which the analysis is based; the Assignment Types; some basic surface information such as word length and text partitioning; an initial Generic Stage Analysis with examples of each of the stages for each discipline. For instance, the History DWP is based on 60 assignments, 59 essays and 1 review; which correspond to five main genres. Examples are given of stages such as titles, thesis statements and arguments.

Such information is expected to be useful to EAP tutors perhaps shortly before a 1-1 session with a student from an unfamiliar discipline, or as initial preparation for a visit to a department. It would not, of course, replace research that EAP professionals would expect to conduct in their own contexts before extensive work with particular groups of students.

The aim of presenting this at a BALEAP PIM is to get feedback on how useful these might be, and what information could easily be added to enhance their usefulness to the community at large.