MWP ASSESSMENT COMMITTEE 2013/2014 DESCRIPTIVE PROMPT PILOT PROJECT SUMMARY

The UC Merced Merritt Writing Program Assessment Committee is a subcommittee of the MWP Curriculum Committee, which works towards meeting the following outcomes: (1) supporting curriculum development and (2) assisting with development and implementation of Program Learning Outcomes for MWP courses. The MWP Assessment Committee focuses upon long-term data collection that informs annual assessment planning and reporting.

INTRODUCTION:

During the Fall 2013 semester, the MWP assessed the PLO 5 "Craft language that reveals aesthetic awareness." The student capstone portfolio cover letter prompt relating to the PLO "Craft" went through layers of revisions and expansions to be more descriptive. The new descriptive prompt was then piloted with WRI 1 and WRI 10 students.

AIM:

The impact of the revised descriptive prompt was evaluated with attention to the "Craft" outcome and further revision options, before widespread adoption by MWP faculty.
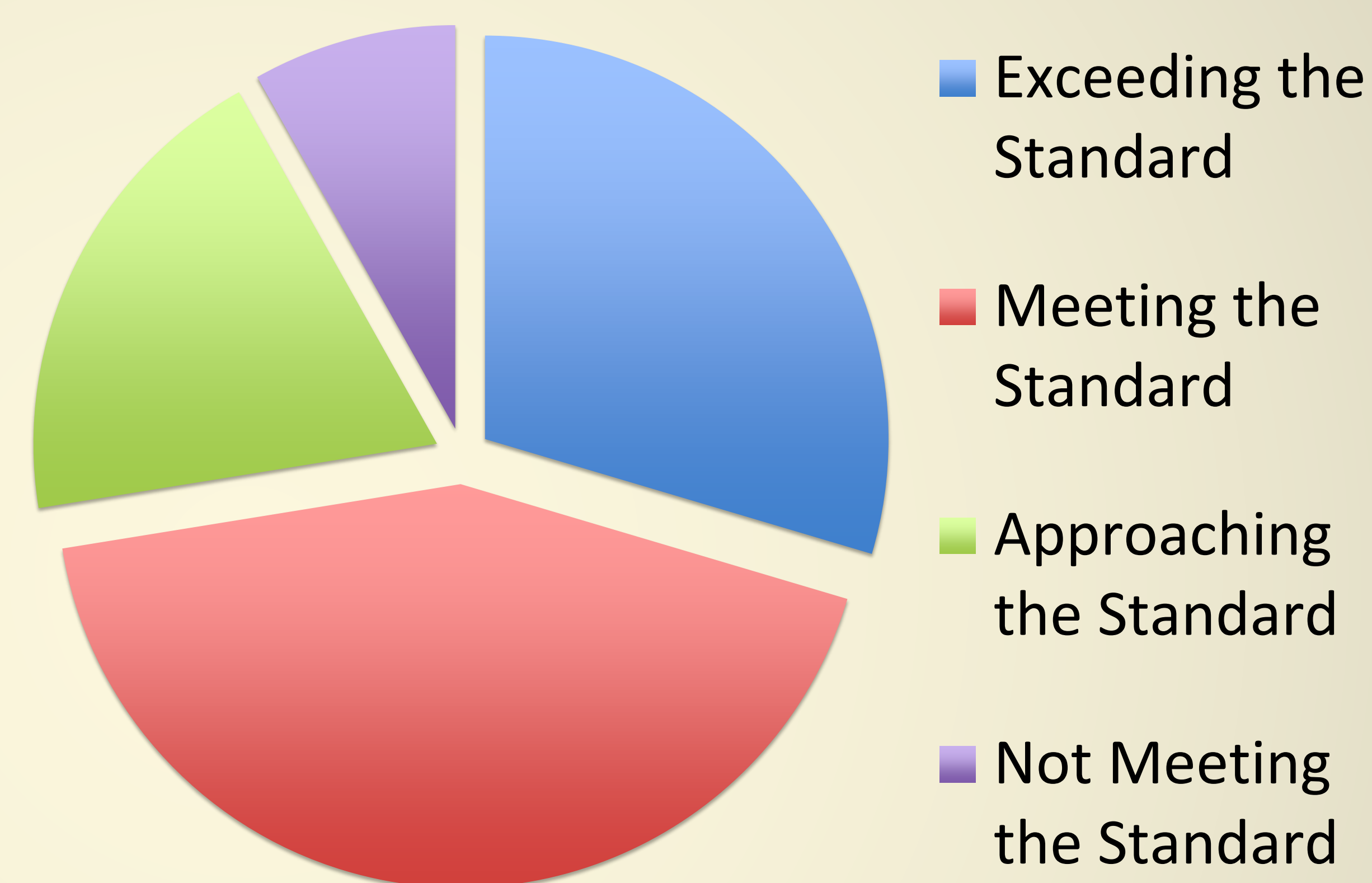
METHODS:

QUANTITATIVE:

Five MWP faculty members used the same rubric to score 100 of the portfolio PLO 5 "Craft" cover letters composed by Writing 1 and 10 students who piloted the new descriptive prompt in their classes.
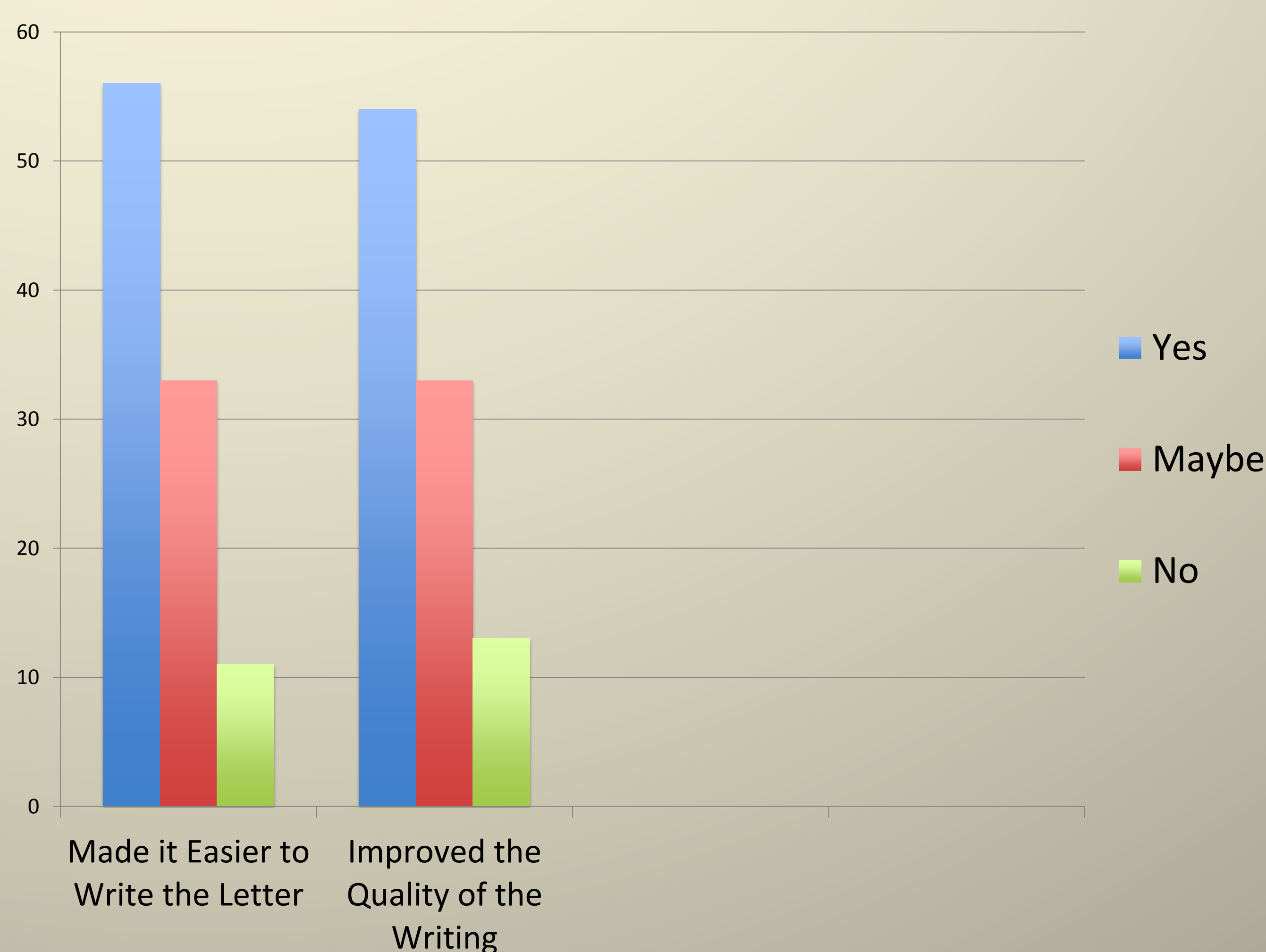
QUALITATIVE:

Six MWP faculty members piloted the revised cover letter in their Writing 1 and Writing 10 classes and administered a survey, through the on-line Qualtrics server, to assess students' perceptions of the prompt. 104 students completed the survey.

RESULTS:

Cover Letter Assessment with Rubric

- Exceeding the Standard
- Meeting the Standard
- Approaching the Standard
- Not Meeting the Standard

Student Survey Results

CONCLUSIONS:

The piloted descriptive portfolio cover letter prompt helped students to meet the outcomes related to the project by making it easier for them to write the cover letter and resulted in a majority of the students Meeting or Exceeding the Standard of assessment.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

The piloted descriptive prompt should be distributed and made available to MWP faculty for further use in the classroom. All PLO sections of the portfolo cover letter prompt should continue to be revised in a parallel manner.

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