In 2005-06, the Dean’s office introduce a project called the Writing Development Initiative to improve and develop students’ writing, following consultation with the UTM community that confirmed that writing development was a key priority for instructors. Focusing on key areas of writing proficiency, including organization, coherence, clarity, and grammar, each writing project that was approved was designed to help students, working within the requirements of their disciplines, to become better writers.

Almost all of the departments participate and have developed writing tasks suited to the objectives of their discipline, aimed at engaging students to become better writers. A wide variety of strategies are employed to improve students’ writing and evaluations are done of the progress and success of each project at the end of the course. We are very pleased with the enthusiasm that has been shown by UTM departments, the critical support that the Academic Skills Centre has given to this project, and the positive feedback that we have received from students. An evaluation of the first year of the project is available at ________________. For more information on the initiative, please contact your department chair or Assistant Dean Lynn Snowden at lynn.snowden@utoronto.ca.