



# EXPLORING THE WAYS STUDENTS DEVELOP ACADEMIC WRITING SKILLS IN HIGHER EDUCATION CONTEXTS:

## Reframing the Script to Include Research Skills Development

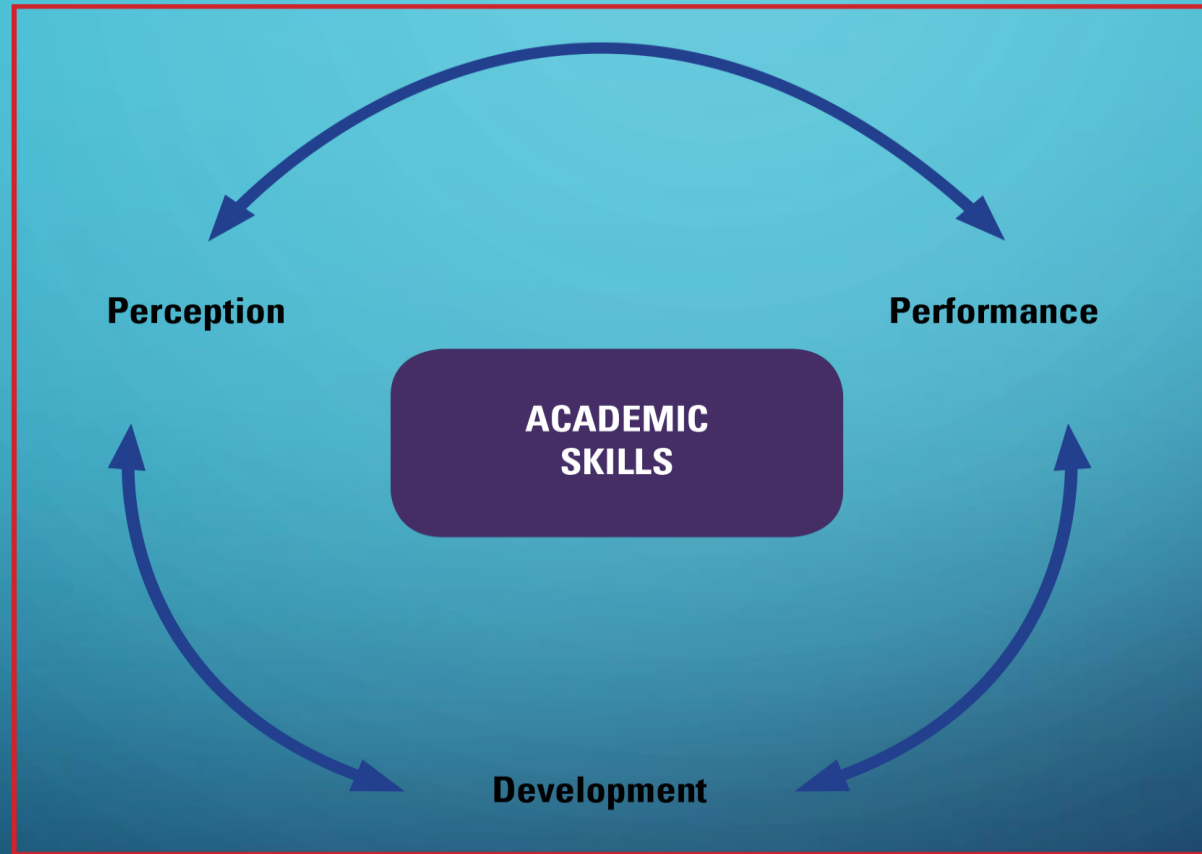
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# RESEARCH SKILLS DEVELOPMENT



Research Skills Development



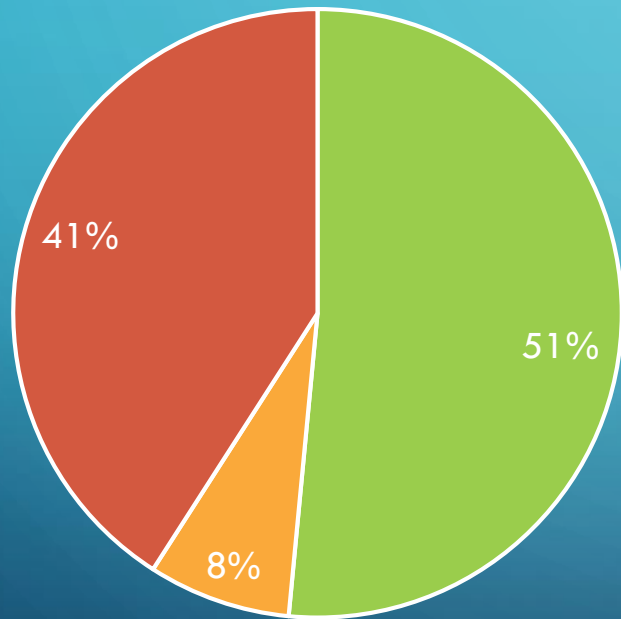
# RESEARCH QUESTIONS

- 1. What are the perceptions of students regarding research?**
- 2. What is the relationship between the perceptions of students and their demonstration of research skills development?**
- 3. What is the efficacy of the Research Skills Development framework in the academic writing of students for whom English is a Second Language?**

# 1. PERCEPTIONS OF STUDENTS REGARDING RESEARCH?

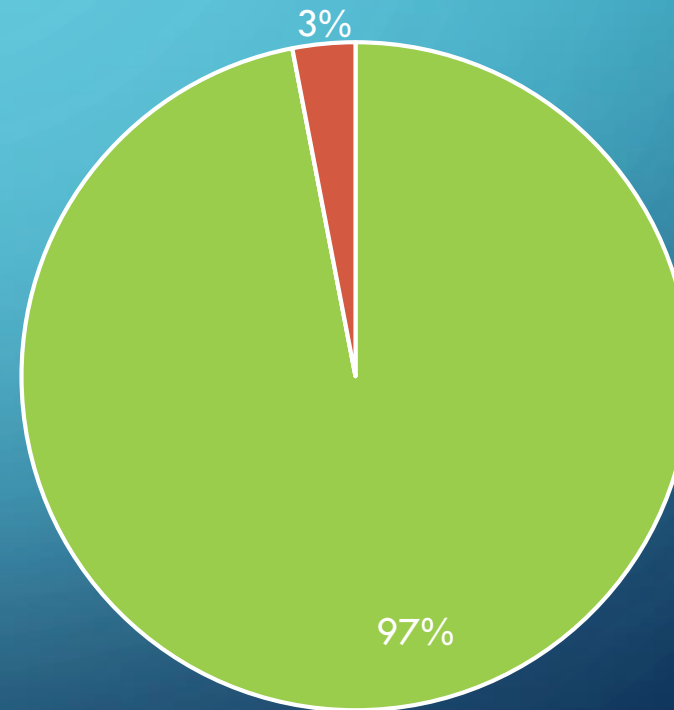
## Q 7b: Conducting research produces trustworthy outcomes

- Perception in first week



■ Yes ■ No ■ Don't Know

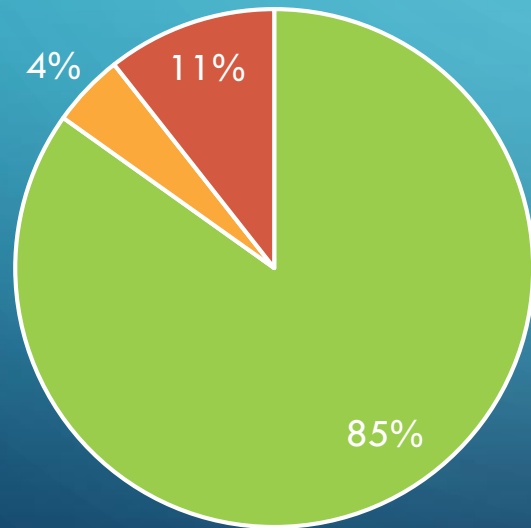
- Perception by last week



■ Yes ■ No ■ Don't Know

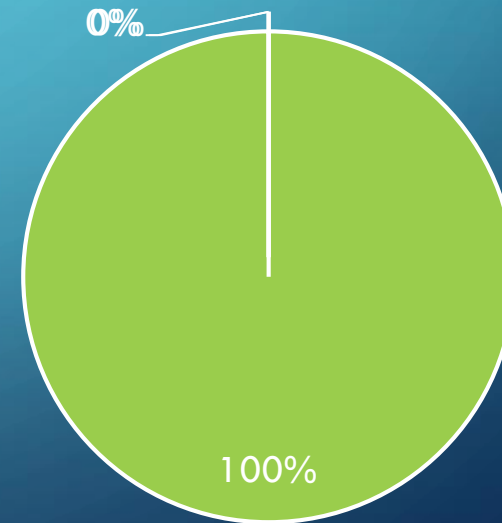
# Q 7c: Being able to conduct research is a useful and worthwhile skill

- Perception in the first week



■ Yes ■ No ■ Don't Know

- Perception by last week



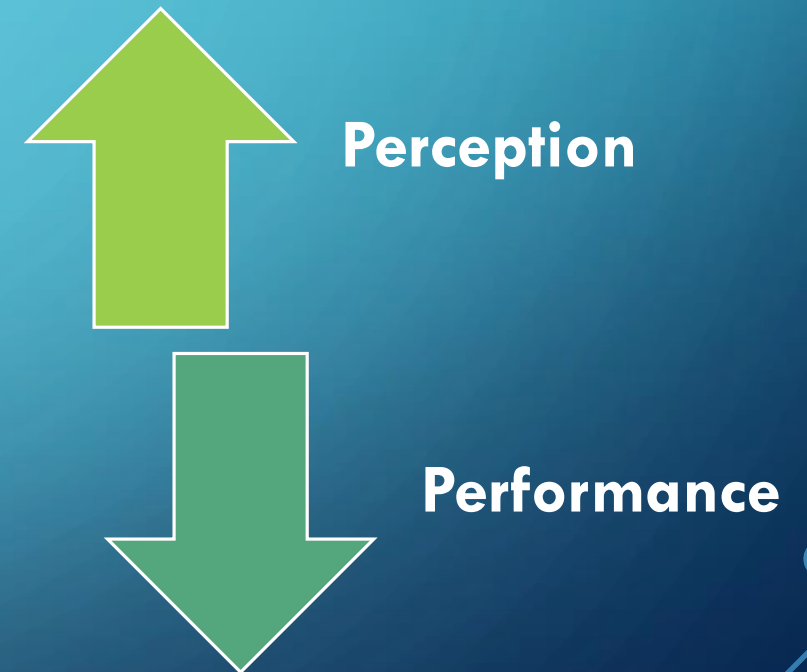
■ Yes

# 1. WHAT ARE THE PERCEPTIONS OF STUDENTS REGARDING RESEARCH?

- **Measures:**
  - **Four questions per construct of Research skills and Ability to conduct research**
- **Test:**
  - **Wilcoxon signed ranks test**
- **Results:**
  - 1. Research skills: difference is significant at 0.00.**
  - 2. Ability to research: difference is not significant at .861.**

## 2. WHAT IS THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE PERCEPTIONS OF STUDENTS AND THEIR PERFORMANCE?

- **Measures:**
  - Perception in week 1 compared to performance in week 1 (diagnostic)
  - Perception in last week compared to performance in last assignment
- **Test:**
  - Spearman's Rho tests were conducted
- **Results:**
  - Negative co-relation in both cases





### 3. WHAT IS THE EFFICACY OF THE RSD FRAMEWORK ON ESL STUDENTS' ACADEMIC WRITING SKILLS?

- **Measures:**

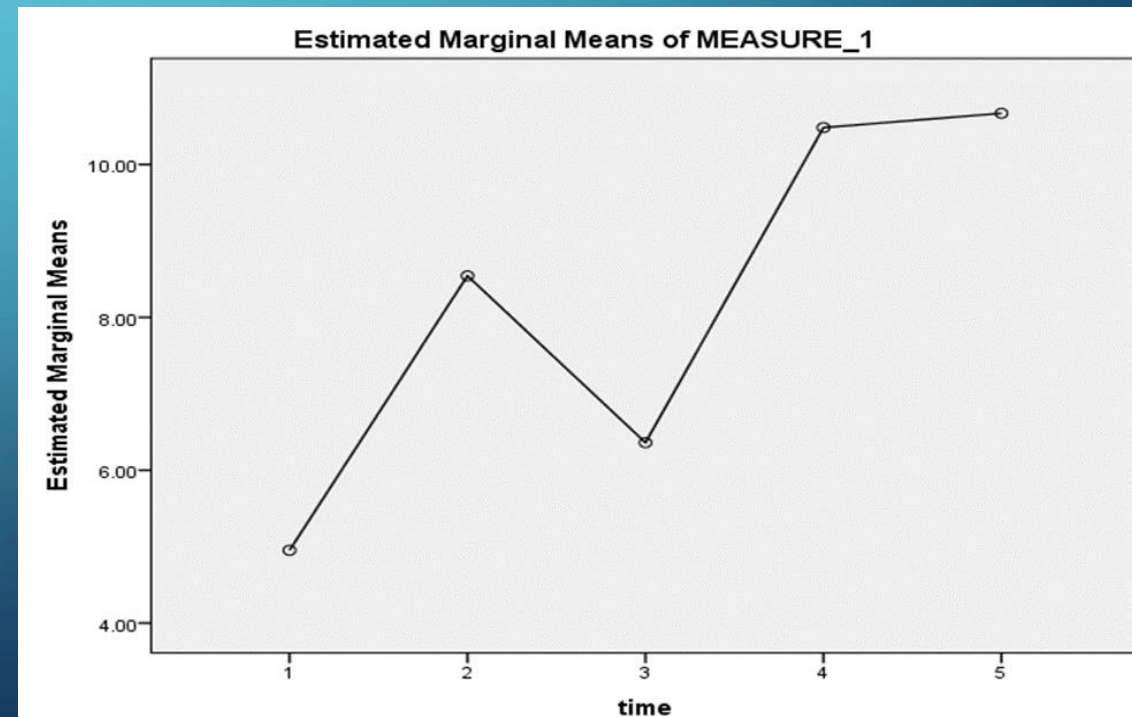
- Progress in performance from initial and final assessment.
- Progress from one assessment task to next.

- **Tests:**

- Wilcoxon Signed Ranks Test

- **Results:**

- **Significant!** From initial to final assessment
- **Significant between all assessments except the last.**



# PRELIMINARY FINDINGS

- **Students accept the importance and relevance of Research Skills Development more positively over time.**
- **Students perceptions of their level of research skills are higher than their actual performance but their performance does improve over time.**
- **Students academic skills develop significantly over time within the RSD framework.**

**...WHAT COMES NEXT...**

- **A detailed analysis of writing  
to determine the change in complexity...**

**Exciting times ahead ...**

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**THANK YOU VERY MUCH**

**VINAKA VAKALEVU / DHANYAVAD**