

# Cambridge Elements<sup>≡</sup>

Elements in Corpus Linguistics

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## SHAPING WRITING GRADES

*Collocation and Writing Context  
Effects*

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## Shaping Writing Grades

### Collocation and Writing Context Effects

Elements in Corpus Linguistics

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**Abstract:** This Element explores relationships between collocations, writing quality, and learner and contextual variables in a first-year composition (FYC) programme. Comprising three studies, this Element is anchored in understanding phraseological complexity and its sub-constructs of sophistication and diversity. First, the authors look at sophistication through association measures. They tap into how these measures may tell us different types of information about collocation via a cluster analysis. Selected measures from this clustering are used in a cumulative links model to establish relationships between these measures, measures of diversity and task, the language background of the writer and individual writer variation, and writing quality scores. A third qualitative study of the statistically significant predictors helps understand how writers use collocations and why they might be favoured or downgraded by raters. This Element concludes by considering the implications of this modelling for assessment.

**Keywords:** collocation, phraseological complexity, writing quality, mixed models, first year-writing

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Contents

|   |   |    |
|---|---|----|
| 1 | Introduction  | 1  |
| 2 | FYC Programmes and the Writing Context                        | 8  |
| 3 | Review of Collocation-Writing Quality Studies                 | 12 |
| 4 | Methodology   | 25 |
| 5 | Study One: The Cluster Analysis                               | 42 |
| 6 | Study Two: The Statistical Modelling                          | 50 |
| 7 | Study Three: Qualitative Understandings<br>of Writing Quality | 58 |
| 8 | Conclusions   | 72 |
|   | References  | 80 |