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**NEWS CONTACT:**  
**Kristin O'Bannon**  
SMARTHINKING  
(858) 693-1622  
kobannon@smarthinking.com

## **Independent Research Shows Students Score Higher With SMARTHINKING Online Tutoring**

### *Online Writing Lab Boosts Pass Rates, Grades*

WASHINGTON D.C. – A new study shows improved pass rates, higher grades and significant improvement in writing skills when students use services from SMARTHINKING, Inc. ([www.smarthinking.com](http://www.smarthinking.com)), the market leader in online tutoring and academic support.

Conducted over two years by the Kapiolani Community College's office of Institutional Research, the study, published in the *Journal of Applied Research in the Community College*, explored the effectiveness of online tutoring for more than 2,200 students enrolled in a Beginning English Composition course. The academic progress of students who used SMARTHINKING's Online Writing Lab was compared to non-users; peers who used face-to-face tutoring or no tutoring resources at all. Results showed a significant statistical difference in success rates.

- 75% of students utilizing SMARTHINKING services passed compared to only 67% of non-users.
- Students utilizing the SMARTHINKING Online Writing Lab (OWL) also had higher average grades: 2.42 compared to 2.09.

"The one-on-one assistance by SMARTHINKING tutors helps strengthen our students' overall writing skills and academic performance in their developmental writing course," said Jill Abbott, professor of English and former chair of the Developmental Education program at Kapi'olani Community College. "The tutors' high caliber feedback adds to the support students receive from our instructors, providing our students a wealth of academic support."

Findings also determined that the potential for students to improve academic performance increased significantly when additional online tutoring sessions were used.

“Quality, personalized instruction not only boosts writing skills, but the confidence students need for a life of continued academic success,” said SMARTHINKING CEO Burck Smith. “This study, in addition to previous independent research, demonstrates that our scalable model for addressing specific student needs works.”

The SMARTHINKING Online Writing Lab is designed to help students at secondary, post-secondary, and graduate levels become stronger writers through providing detailed, personalized critiques of any written assignment, such as an essay, report, personal statement, cover letter, resume, or creative story. Ninety percent of tutors hold a masters or Ph.D. degree in their discipline and have an average of nine years of teaching experience. This level of experience and expertise contributes to the consistent success of SMARTHINKING’s tutoring services.

#### **About SMARTHINKING**

SMARTHINKING is the market leader in providing online tutoring and academic support to students. Their services were honored with the Software & Information Industry Association (SIIA) CODiE award for Best Instruction Solution for Students at Home. Schools, colleges, universities, libraries, government agencies, textbook publishers and other education providers partner with SMARTHINKING to increase student achievement and enhance learning. SMARTHINKING connects students to e-structor® certified tutors for assistance in math, writing, science and business, up to 24/7, on any Internet connected computer. SMARTHINKING’s corporate office is located in Washington, D.C. For more information, visit [www.smarthinking.com](http://www.smarthinking.com).

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