**Writing retreats for level 1 students: a controlled study**

Vic

Hi everybody, I'm Vic Nicholas and I am presenting the poster that Paul Collier and I have written about our eSTEeM project that we've been undertaking.

The project is called 'Writing retreats for level one students: a controlled study' and the background to this study is that students often report to us that they struggle with time management, and so we wanted to be able to offer writing retreats to students who have got a lower predicted pass rate. We wanted to do this to allow them to ring fence time for their own TMA preparation, and we made sure that there was a tutor present in these writing time sessions to reduce any possibility of collusion.

So, we wanted to do a controlled study involving large numbers to see if it was going to have a genuine effect or not. After having split off the group that were a naught to 70 probability of passing the module, we split them into a group that were invited and those that weren't invited, and we then looked at whether they attended the writing retreat or not, and then looked at their submission rates and TMA scores.

The preliminary results from this study are that there was a low take up initially of the opportunity to attend the writing retreat. This improved during the study, but the main thing that we found is that four students who did attend the writing retreats, there was an increased submission rate of up to 26 percent and there was an increased score of TMAs of up to 77 percent. The next phase of this study is that we're going to invite everyone in the naught to 70 prediction group, which should hopefully result in more attendees and more students benefiting from increased success.

Thank you.