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Becoming Critical Reviewers of Literature: Learning the Writing Process

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Becoming Critical Reviewers of Literature: Learning the Writing Process

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Research Question

How do students engage with the writing process as critical reviewers?

How does incorporating critical review influence student engagement with the text?

Literature Review

Ranck-Buhr (2012) argued that students maintain a higher level of engagement when they used their own voice in writing.

Bayat (2014) found that students had less anxiety when writing about more engaging material.

Taylor and Parsons (2011) focused on how assignments can increase student engagement.

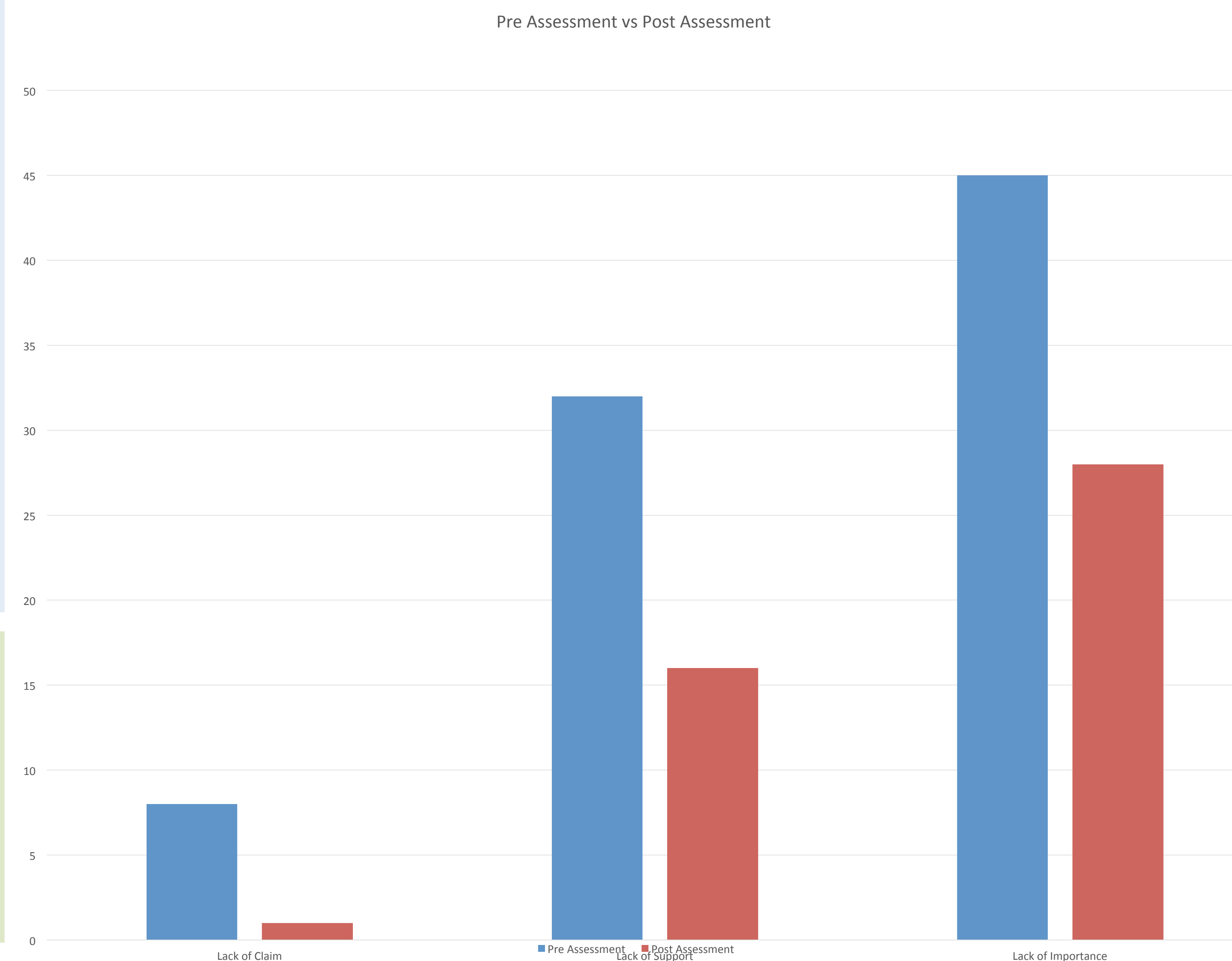
Lawrence (2013) makes the case that student voice can produce stronger writers.

Figure 1. The graph specifically records three areas: lack of claim, support, and importance. These areas are directly involved with the writing process.

Methodology

The participants were 14 sophomores in an enriched English classroom. I administered pre and post assessments and taught a lesson on how to write reviews. For this inquiry, I collected three data sources: student work, lesson plans, and a student questionnaire. Some techniques used to analyze the sources were looking at similarities and differences, and repetitions.

Pre Assessment vs Post Assessment



Results and Data Analysis

Students made less rhetorical errors in the post assessment (see Figure 1); showing that they have engaged with the writing process in a very positive way.

The second data source I collected were three lesson plans I made. With these, I recorded common themes and phrases which showed what students were aiming to learn. The last data source was questionnaire asking students if they felt the critical review assessment helped them. Ten students believed it did, and only two did not.

Conclusion

Regarding students' ability to engage with the writing process, the data from my sources prove that it was beneficial.

As for influencing student engagement, the literature I reviewed states that the critical review assessment would deeply engage students.

For future studies, I would recommend actually measuring student engagement in the classroom.