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## Course Description

Clearly, law enforcement professionals must conduct a thorough investigation and provide prosecutors with a thorough, written report in order to support the charges filed. Yet, very few law enforcement professionals have been provided the training in how to do this effectively, especially in the area of sexual assault. This module is designed to address this problem.

**Estimated time for completion:** 4 hours

## OVW Grant Funding

The OLTI was created and continues to be supported with funding from the Office on Violence Against Women, U.S. Department of Justice. However, the opinions, findings, conclusions, and recommendations expressed are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the views of the Department of Justice, Office on Violence Against Women.

## Expert Contributions

OLTI training content is created and updated with input from professionals in a variety of disciplines, including law enforcement, prosecution, health care, victim advocacy, and related fields. Please see the acknowledgements page of each module, for a list of the individuals who served as contributing authors or expert reviewers.

## Course Evaluations

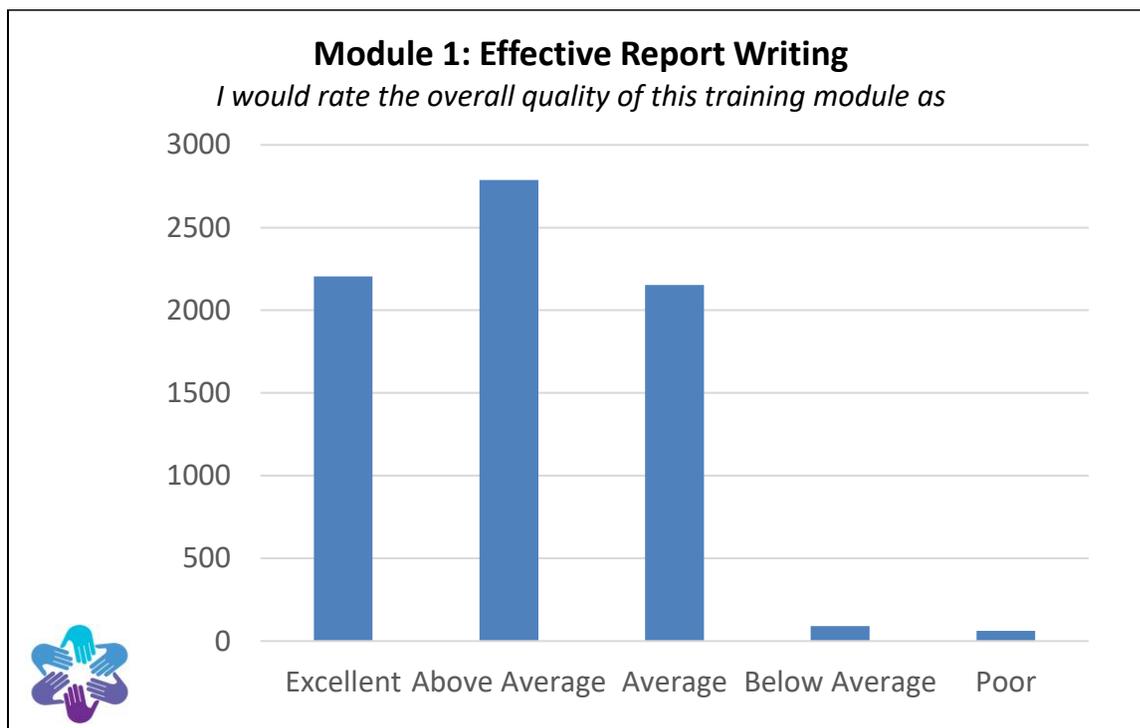
At the end of each module participants are asked a number of questions, including the overall quality of the module, as well as its difficulty. They are also asked to indicate how likely they are to apply the information they learned on the job. Their responses are summarized in the following charts, and illustrated with the quotes.

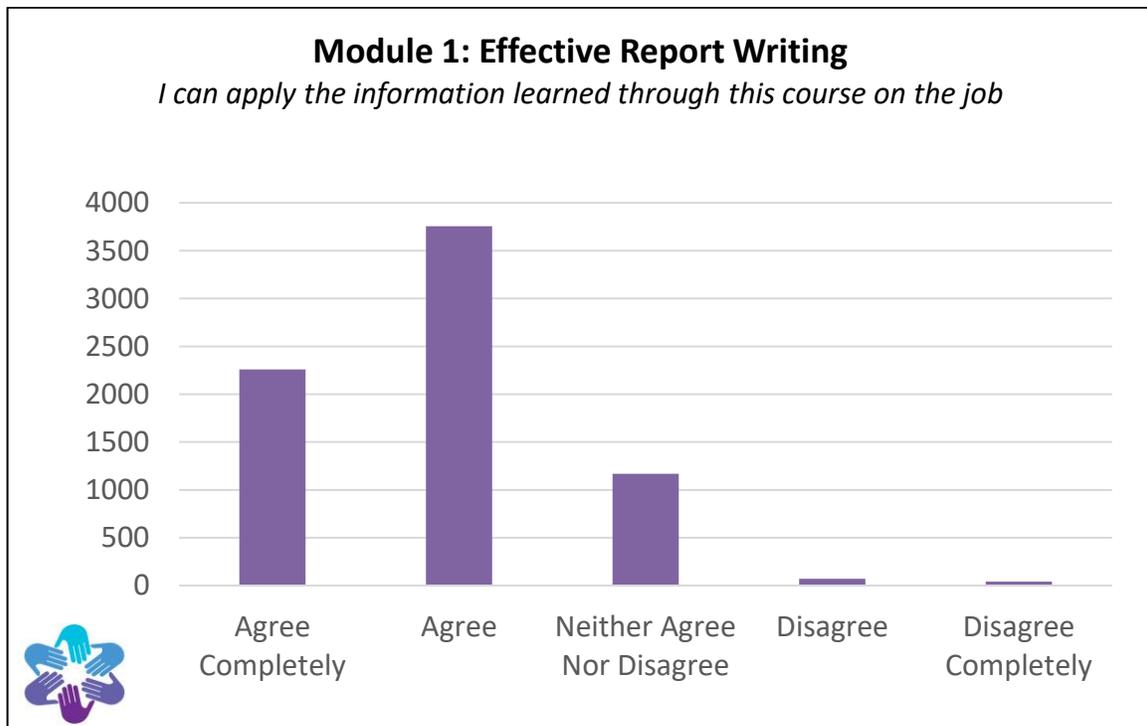
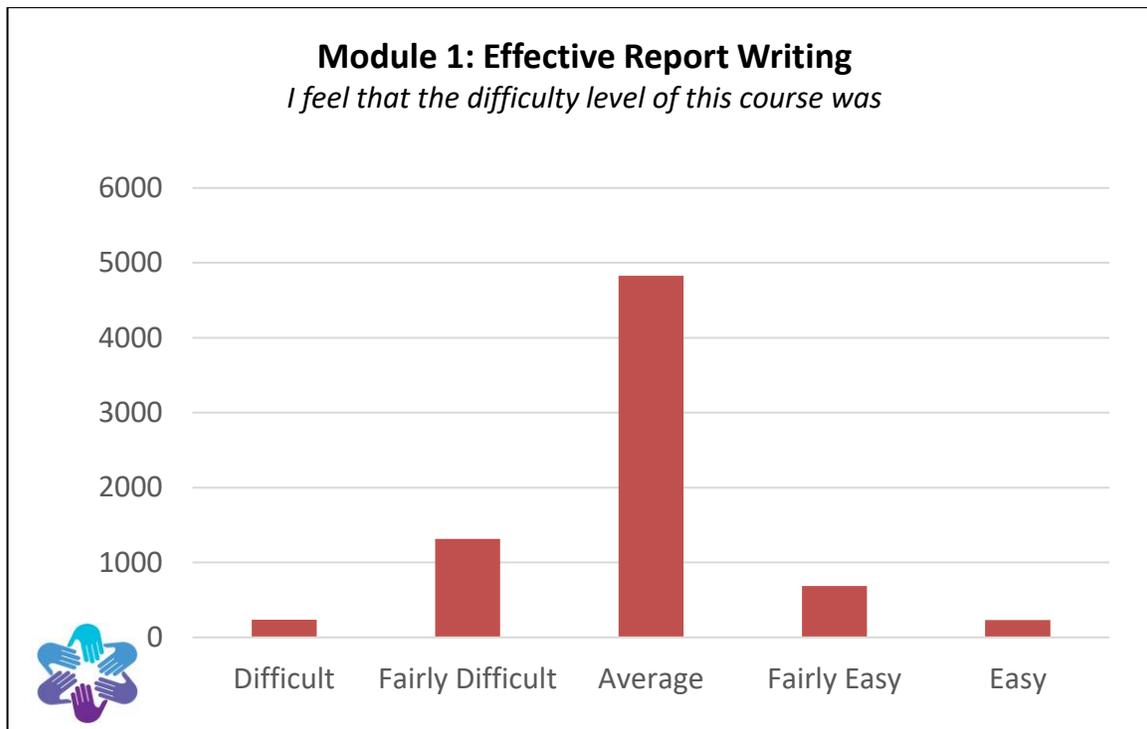


#### ***What did you find most helpful in this module?***

I enjoyed that there were examples provided, and it really helped to clarify the meaning of using proper language in report writing.

The importance of preserving the exact words of a victim as well as witnesses in a case of sexual assault was most helpful in this module. Also, I appreciated the knowledge of how trying to clean up the language or use more text like terminology can minimize the impact of what a victim endured almost to the point of it appearing to be a consensual act.







## Course Objectives

At the end of this training module, the learner will be able to:

- Recognize the purposes of police reports in sexual assault cases
- Utilize report writing techniques that successfully support the prosecution of sexual assault cases, including:
  - Summarize all of the evidence uncovered during the course of the investigation
  - Recreate the reality of the sexual assault from the victim's perspective
  - Record witness statements, especially those that corroborate the victim's account
  - Document suspect statements, especially those that corroborate the victim's account or provide an implausible or even absurd version of reality
  - Tape interviews with victims, witnesses, and suspects
  - Effectively document other evidence in the case
- Utilize report writing techniques that successfully overcome the three primary strategies used by the defense in sexual assault, including:
  - Impeachment by omission
  - Impeachment by contradiction
  - Motions to suppress

## Course Outline

- I. Introduction
- II. Techniques for Effective Report Writing
  - a. Summarizing all of the evidence from the investigation
  - b. Recreating the reality of the sexual assault from the victim's perspective
  - c. Recording critical witness statements
  - d. Documenting suspect statements
  - e. Taping interviews
  - f. Documenting other evidence in a sexual assault case.
- III. Common Defense Strategies
  - a. Defense strategy #1: impeachment by omission
  - b. Defense strategy #2: impeachment by contradiction
  - c. Defense strategy #3: motions to suppress