

2017 Topical Module: Experiences with Writing Profile of Participating Institutions and Respondents and All Bachelor's-Granting U.S. Institutions and Students

Topical modules are short sets of questions on a topic related to current issues in higher education and student engagement that may be appended to the core survey. The **Experiences with Writing** module touches on three content areas: interactive writing processes, meaning-making writing tasks, and clarity of writing expectations. In 2017, 60 U.S. institutions elected to append these items to the core survey. Of these, 58 belonged to one of the eight Carnegie classifications shown in the table below.^a

The institutions and respondents participating in a given module are only a subset of all NSSE participating institutions and respondents. The table below displays the characteristics for module participants alongside NSSE 2017 participants as well as all bachelor's-granting U.S. institutions and students (all limited to the eight indicated Carnegie Classification categories).

| | Institutions | | | Students | | |
|---|-------------------|--------------|-------------------|-------------------|--------------|-------------------|
| | Writing Module | NSSE 2017 | U.S. ^b | Writing Module | NSSE 2017 | U.S. ^b |
| | (%) | (%) | (%) | (%) | (%) | (%) |
| Carnegie Basic Classification^c | | | | | | |
| R1: Doctoral Universities - Highest research activity | 5 | 5 | 7 | 18 | 18 | 26 |
| R2: Doctoral Universities - Higher research activity | 7 | 6 | 6 | 12 | 13 | 14 |
| R3: Doctoral Universities - Moderate research activity | 16 | 7 | 7 | 20 | 9 | 11 |
| M1: Master's Colleges and Universities - Larger programs | 24 | 29 | 24 | 22 | 32 | 28 |
| M2: Master's Colleges and Universities - Medium programs | 10 | 13 | 13 | 10 | 8 | 7 |
| M3: Master's Colleges and Universities - Smaller programs | 5 | 8 | 9 | 6 | 5 | 3 |
| Baccalaureate Colleges: Arts & Sciences Focus | 17 | 16 | 15 | 8 | 8 | 4 |
| Baccalaureate Colleges: Diverse Fields | 16 | 15 | 19 | 5 | 7 | 5 |
| Control | | | | | | |
| Public | 43 | 44 | 35 | 76 | 67 | 66 |
| Private | 57 | 56 | 65 | 24 | 33 | 34 |
| Undergraduate enrollment | | | | | | |
| Fewer than 1,000 | 19 | 15 | 21 | 4 | 3 | 2 |
| 1,000 – 2,499 | 29 | 32 | 33 | 12 | 14 | 10 |
| 2,500 – 4,999 | 16 | 18 | 17 | 12 | 14 | 11 |
| 5,000 – 9,999 | 14 | 19 | 14 | 12 | 21 | 19 |
| 10,000 – 19,999 | 19 | 9 | 9 | 46 | 18 | 24 |
| 20,000 or more | 3 | 7 | 6 | 14 | 30 | 34 |

a. All numbers are unweighted and based on U.S. postsecondary institutions that award bachelor's degrees and belong to one of the eight Carnegie Classification categories in the table. Totals may not sum to 100% due to rounding.

b. U.S. percentages are based on the 2015 IPEDS Institutional Characteristics file.

c. For information on the Carnegie Foundation's Basic Classification, see carnegieclassifications.iu.edu

NSSE 2017 Topical Modules

U.S. Summary Frequencies by Class and Sex

Experiences with Writing

First-Year Students

Seniors

| Item wording or description | Variable name | Response options | Female | | Male | | Total | | Female | | Male | | Total | |
|---|------------------|--------------------------|--------|-----|-------|-----|--------|-----|--------|-----|-------|-----|--------|-----|
| | | | Count | % | Count | % | Count | % | Count | % | Count | % | Count | % |
| 1. During the current school year, for how many writing assignments have you done the following? | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| a. Talked with a classmate, friend, or family member to develop your ideas before starting your assignment | WRI01a | No writing assignments | 631 | 8 | 487 | 11 | 1,118 | 9 | 894 | 9 | 770 | 14 | 1,664 | 11 |
| | | Few writing assignments | 1,800 | 21 | 1,154 | 24 | 2,954 | 22 | 2,331 | 22 | 1,342 | 23 | 3,673 | 22 |
| | | Some writing assignments | 3,193 | 36 | 1,800 | 36 | 4,993 | 36 | 3,819 | 35 | 2,094 | 34 | 5,913 | 35 |
| | | Most writing assignments | 2,466 | 28 | 1,166 | 23 | 3,632 | 26 | 2,871 | 26 | 1,378 | 22 | 4,249 | 24 |
| | | All writing assignments | 624 | 7 | 319 | 6 | 943 | 7 | 909 | 8 | 411 | 7 | 1,320 | 8 |
| | | Total | 8,714 | 100 | 4,926 | 100 | 13,640 | 100 | 10,824 | 100 | 5,995 | 100 | 16,819 | 100 |
| b. Received feedback from a classmate, friend, or family member about a draft before turning in your final assignment | WRI01b | No writing assignments | 657 | 8 | 462 | 10 | 1,119 | 9 | 1,350 | 13 | 967 | 17 | 2,317 | 15 |
| | | Few writing assignments | 1,606 | 19 | 1,000 | 21 | 2,606 | 20 | 2,583 | 24 | 1,465 | 24 | 4,048 | 24 |
| | | Some writing assignments | 2,757 | 32 | 1,658 | 33 | 4,415 | 32 | 3,464 | 32 | 1,936 | 32 | 5,400 | 32 |
| | | Most writing assignments | 2,750 | 31 | 1,381 | 28 | 4,131 | 30 | 2,535 | 23 | 1,228 | 20 | 3,763 | 22 |
| | | All writing assignments | 886 | 10 | 388 | 8 | 1,274 | 9 | 830 | 8 | 367 | 6 | 1,197 | 7 |
| | | Total | 8,656 | 100 | 4,889 | 100 | 13,545 | 100 | 10,762 | 100 | 5,963 | 100 | 16,725 | 100 |
| c. Gave feedback to a classmate about a draft or outline | WRI01c | No writing assignments | 772 | 10 | 486 | 11 | 1,258 | 10 | 1,683 | 17 | 1,013 | 18 | 2,696 | 17 |
| | | Few writing assignments | 1,841 | 22 | 1,020 | 21 | 2,861 | 21 | 2,790 | 26 | 1,523 | 26 | 4,313 | 26 |
| | | Some writing assignments | 3,224 | 36 | 1,930 | 39 | 5,154 | 37 | 3,935 | 35 | 2,232 | 36 | 6,167 | 36 |
| | | Most writing assignments | 2,333 | 26 | 1,186 | 23 | 3,519 | 25 | 1,932 | 18 | 961 | 15 | 2,893 | 17 |
| | | All writing assignments | 534 | 6 | 296 | 6 | 830 | 6 | 464 | 4 | 265 | 4 | 729 | 4 |
| | | Total | 8,704 | 100 | 4,918 | 100 | 13,622 | 100 | 10,804 | 100 | 5,994 | 100 | 16,798 | 100 |
| d. Summarized material you read, such as articles, books, or online publications | WRI01d | No writing assignments | 363 | 4 | 272 | 6 | 635 | 5 | 495 | 5 | 504 | 9 | 999 | 7 |
| | | Few writing assignments | 1,254 | 15 | 809 | 17 | 2,063 | 16 | 1,412 | 13 | 919 | 16 | 2,331 | 14 |
| | | Some writing assignments | 3,147 | 36 | 1,870 | 38 | 5,017 | 37 | 3,533 | 32 | 2,124 | 35 | 5,657 | 34 |
| | | Most writing assignments | 3,139 | 36 | 1,587 | 32 | 4,726 | 34 | 4,003 | 37 | 1,879 | 31 | 5,882 | 34 |
| | | All writing assignments | 791 | 9 | 379 | 8 | 1,170 | 8 | 1,362 | 12 | 551 | 9 | 1,913 | 11 |
| | | Total | 8,694 | 100 | 4,917 | 100 | 13,611 | 100 | 10,805 | 100 | 5,977 | 100 | 16,782 | 100 |
| e. Analyzed or evaluated something you read, researched, or observed | WRI01e | No writing assignments | 179 | 2 | 153 | 3 | 332 | 3 | 291 | 3 | 320 | 6 | 611 | 4 |
| | | Few writing assignments | 774 | 10 | 513 | 11 | 1,287 | 10 | 822 | 8 | 573 | 10 | 1,395 | 9 |
| | | Some writing assignments | 2,484 | 29 | 1,555 | 32 | 4,039 | 30 | 2,703 | 25 | 1,625 | 27 | 4,328 | 26 |
| | | Most writing assignments | 3,919 | 44 | 2,015 | 40 | 5,934 | 42 | 4,819 | 44 | 2,467 | 41 | 7,286 | 43 |
| | | All writing assignments | 1,329 | 15 | 681 | 14 | 2,010 | 15 | 2,167 | 20 | 996 | 16 | 3,163 | 18 |
| | | Total | 8,685 | 100 | 4,917 | 100 | 13,602 | 100 | 10,802 | 100 | 5,981 | 100 | 16,783 | 100 |
| f. Described your methods or findings related to data you collected in lab or field work, a survey project, etc. | WRI01f | No writing assignments | 1,405 | 17 | 669 | 15 | 2,074 | 16 | 1,383 | 13 | 789 | 14 | 2,172 | 14 |
| | | Few writing assignments | 1,799 | 21 | 970 | 21 | 2,769 | 21 | 2,063 | 19 | 1,057 | 18 | 3,120 | 19 |
| | | Some writing assignments | 2,794 | 32 | 1,718 | 34 | 4,512 | 33 | 3,205 | 29 | 1,900 | 32 | 5,105 | 30 |
| | | Most writing assignments | 2,120 | 24 | 1,213 | 24 | 3,333 | 24 | 3,063 | 28 | 1,650 | 27 | 4,713 | 28 |
| | | All writing assignments | 558 | 6 | 344 | 7 | 902 | 7 | 1,069 | 10 | 592 | 10 | 1,661 | 10 |
| | | Total | 8,676 | 100 | 4,914 | 100 | 13,590 | 100 | 10,783 | 100 | 5,988 | 100 | 16,771 | 100 |
| g. Argued a position using evidence and reasoning | WRI01g | No writing assignments | 487 | 6 | 267 | 6 | 754 | 6 | 824 | 8 | 588 | 11 | 1,412 | 9 |
| | | Few writing assignments | 1,100 | 13 | 628 | 13 | 1,728 | 13 | 1,646 | 16 | 792 | 14 | 2,438 | 15 |
| | | Some writing assignments | 2,598 | 30 | 1,575 | 32 | 4,173 | 31 | 3,375 | 32 | 1,850 | 31 | 5,225 | 32 |
| | | Most writing assignments | 3,365 | 38 | 1,760 | 35 | 5,125 | 37 | 3,472 | 31 | 1,825 | 30 | 5,297 | 31 |
| | | All writing assignments | 1,126 | 12 | 688 | 14 | 1,814 | 13 | 1,482 | 13 | 928 | 14 | 2,410 | 14 |
| | | Total | 8,676 | 100 | 4,918 | 100 | 13,594 | 100 | 10,799 | 100 | 5,983 | 100 | 16,782 | 100 |
| h. Explained in writing the meaning of numerical or statistical data | WRI01h | No writing assignments | 2,313 | 28 | 825 | 18 | 3,138 | 23 | 2,069 | 20 | 804 | 14 | 2,873 | 17 |
| | | Few writing assignments | 2,264 | 26 | 1,191 | 25 | 3,455 | 26 | 2,780 | 26 | 1,156 | 20 | 3,936 | 23 |
| | | Some writing assignments | 2,271 | 26 | 1,579 | 31 | 3,850 | 28 | 3,205 | 30 | 1,886 | 31 | 5,091 | 30 |
| | | Most writing assignments | 1,453 | 16 | 1,004 | 20 | 2,457 | 18 | 2,087 | 19 | 1,570 | 26 | 3,657 | 22 |
| | | All writing assignments | 356 | 4 | 321 | 6 | 677 | 5 | 635 | 6 | 566 | 9 | 1,201 | 7 |
| | | Total | 8,657 | 100 | 4,920 | 100 | 13,577 | 100 | 10,776 | 100 | 5,982 | 100 | 16,758 | 100 |

Note: Results weighted by institution-reported sex, enrollment status, and institution size. Counts are not weighted.

NSSE 2017 Topical Modules

U.S. Summary Frequencies by Class and Sex

Experiences with Writing

| Item wording or description | Variable name | Response options | First-Year Students | | | | | | Seniors | | | | | |
|--|---------------|--------------------------|---------------------|-----|-------|-----|--------|-----|---------|-----|-------|-----|--------|-----|
| | | | Female | | Male | | Total | | Female | | Male | | Total | |
| | | | Count | % | Count | % | Count | % | Count | % | Count | % | Count | % |
| i. Wrote in the style and format of a specific field (engineering, history, psychology, etc.) | WRI01i | No writing assignments | 1,495 | 18 | 696 | 15 | 2,191 | 17 | 1,146 | 11 | 625 | 11 | 1,771 | 11 |
| | | Few writing assignments | 1,682 | 20 | 943 | 20 | 2,625 | 20 | 1,392 | 13 | 798 | 14 | 2,190 | 13 |
| | | Some writing assignments | 2,490 | 28 | 1,527 | 30 | 4,017 | 29 | 2,267 | 21 | 1,519 | 25 | 3,786 | 23 |
| | | Most writing assignments | 2,163 | 24 | 1,236 | 24 | 3,399 | 24 | 3,294 | 30 | 1,780 | 29 | 5,074 | 29 |
| | | All writing assignments | 847 | 10 | 506 | 10 | 1,353 | 10 | 2,683 | 25 | 1,258 | 21 | 3,941 | 23 |
| | | Total | 8,677 | 100 | 4,908 | 100 | 13,585 | 100 | 10,782 | 100 | 5,980 | 100 | 16,762 | 100 |
| j. Addressed a real or imagined audience such as your classmates, a politician, non experts, etc. | WRI01j | No writing assignments | 1,346 | 16 | 627 | 13 | 1,973 | 15 | 1,654 | 16 | 958 | 17 | 2,612 | 16 |
| | | Few writing assignments | 1,835 | 21 | 996 | 21 | 2,831 | 21 | 2,215 | 21 | 1,167 | 20 | 3,382 | 20 |
| | | Some writing assignments | 2,690 | 31 | 1,684 | 34 | 4,374 | 33 | 3,368 | 31 | 1,945 | 32 | 5,313 | 31 |
| | | Most writing assignments | 2,045 | 24 | 1,183 | 23 | 3,228 | 23 | 2,406 | 22 | 1,315 | 22 | 3,721 | 22 |
| | | All writing assignments | 725 | 8 | 417 | 9 | 1,142 | 8 | 1,120 | 10 | 568 | 9 | 1,688 | 10 |
| | | Total | 8,641 | 100 | 4,907 | 100 | 13,548 | 100 | 10,763 | 100 | 5,953 | 100 | 16,716 | 100 |
| 2. During the current school year, for how many of your writing assignments have your instructors done the following? | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| a. Provided clear instructions describing what they wanted you to do | WRI02a | No writing assignments | 126 | 2 | 104 | 2 | 230 | 2 | 212 | 2 | 232 | 4 | 444 | 3 |
| | | Few writing assignments | 547 | 7 | 358 | 7 | 905 | 7 | 568 | 5 | 363 | 6 | 931 | 6 |
| | | Some writing assignments | 1,852 | 21 | 1,099 | 22 | 2,951 | 22 | 2,004 | 18 | 1,236 | 21 | 3,240 | 19 |
| | | Most writing assignments | 4,046 | 45 | 2,183 | 44 | 6,229 | 45 | 5,157 | 47 | 2,689 | 44 | 7,846 | 46 |
| | | All writing assignments | 2,091 | 25 | 1,165 | 24 | 3,256 | 24 | 2,834 | 27 | 1,450 | 25 | 4,284 | 26 |
| | | Total | 8,662 | 100 | 4,909 | 100 | 13,571 | 100 | 10,775 | 100 | 5,970 | 100 | 16,745 | 100 |
| b. Explained in advance what they wanted you to learn | WRI02b | No writing assignments | 289 | 4 | 173 | 4 | 462 | 4 | 353 | 3 | 344 | 6 | 697 | 5 |
| | | Few writing assignments | 1,058 | 12 | 542 | 11 | 1,600 | 12 | 1,160 | 11 | 670 | 11 | 1,830 | 11 |
| | | Some writing assignments | 2,379 | 27 | 1,438 | 28 | 3,817 | 28 | 2,747 | 25 | 1,659 | 28 | 4,406 | 26 |
| | | Most writing assignments | 3,141 | 35 | 1,761 | 36 | 4,902 | 35 | 3,943 | 36 | 2,085 | 34 | 6,028 | 35 |
| | | All writing assignments | 1,795 | 22 | 997 | 21 | 2,792 | 21 | 2,566 | 25 | 1,204 | 20 | 3,770 | 23 |
| | | Total | 8,662 | 100 | 4,911 | 100 | 13,573 | 100 | 10,769 | 100 | 5,962 | 100 | 16,731 | 100 |
| c. Explained in advance the criteria they would use to grade your assignment | WRI02c | No writing assignments | 167 | 2 | 127 | 3 | 294 | 2 | 236 | 2 | 251 | 5 | 487 | 3 |
| | | Few writing assignments | 635 | 8 | 390 | 8 | 1,025 | 8 | 633 | 6 | 439 | 7 | 1,072 | 7 |
| | | Some writing assignments | 1,858 | 21 | 1,137 | 23 | 2,995 | 22 | 1,819 | 17 | 1,195 | 20 | 3,014 | 18 |
| | | Most writing assignments | 3,384 | 38 | 1,792 | 36 | 5,176 | 37 | 4,201 | 38 | 2,259 | 37 | 6,460 | 38 |
| | | All writing assignments | 2,622 | 31 | 1,462 | 30 | 4,084 | 30 | 3,898 | 37 | 1,824 | 31 | 5,722 | 34 |
| | | Total | 8,666 | 100 | 4,908 | 100 | 13,574 | 100 | 10,787 | 100 | 5,968 | 100 | 16,755 | 100 |

Note: Results weighted by institution-reported sex, enrollment status, and institution size. Counts are not weighted.

NSSE 2017 Topical Modules

U.S. Summary Means and Standard Deviations by Class and Sex

Experiences with Writing

| Item wording or description | Variable name | First-Year Students | | | | | | Seniors | | | | | |
|--|------------------|---------------------|------|------|------|-------|------|---------|------|------|------|-------|------|
| | | Female | | Male | | Total | | Female | | Male | | Total | |
| | | Mean | SD | Mean | SD | Mean | SD | Mean | SD | Mean | SD | Mean | SD |
| 1. During the current school year, for how many writing assignments have you done the following? | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| a. Talked with a classmate, friend, or family member to develop your ideas before starting your assignment | WRI01a | 3.06 | 1.04 | 2.89 | 1.06 | 2.98 | 1.05 | 3.03 | 1.08 | 2.85 | 1.12 | 2.95 | 1.10 |
| b. Received feedback from a classmate, friend, or family member about a draft before turning in your final assignment | WRI01b | 3.17 | 1.10 | 3.02 | 1.10 | 3.10 | 1.10 | 2.87 | 1.14 | 2.74 | 1.15 | 2.81 | 1.14 |
| c. Gave feedback to a classmate about a draft or outline | WRI01c | 2.98 | 1.05 | 2.92 | 1.05 | 2.95 | 1.05 | 2.66 | 1.08 | 2.62 | 1.08 | 2.64 | 1.08 |
| d. Summarized material you read, such as articles, books, or online publications | WRI01d | 3.30 | .98 | 3.18 | 1.00 | 3.25 | .99 | 3.39 | 1.02 | 3.16 | 1.08 | 3.29 | 1.05 |
| e. Analyzed or evaluated something you read, researched, or observed | WRI01e | 3.60 | .93 | 3.49 | .98 | 3.55 | .96 | 3.70 | .97 | 3.52 | 1.06 | 3.62 | 1.01 |
| f. Described your methods or findings related to data you collected in lab or field work, a survey project, etc. | WRI01f | 2.82 | 1.16 | 2.88 | 1.13 | 2.84 | 1.15 | 3.02 | 1.18 | 3.02 | 1.18 | 3.02 | 1.18 |
| g. Argued a position using evidence and reasoning | WRI01g | 3.37 | 1.06 | 3.36 | 1.07 | 3.36 | 1.06 | 3.25 | 1.12 | 3.23 | 1.17 | 3.24 | 1.15 |
| h. Explained in writing the meaning of numerical or statistical data | WRI01h | 2.42 | 1.16 | 2.72 | 1.15 | 2.56 | 1.17 | 2.65 | 1.16 | 2.96 | 1.18 | 2.79 | 1.18 |
| i. Wrote in the style and format of a specific field (engineering, history, psychology, etc.) | WRI01i | 2.87 | 1.24 | 2.95 | 1.21 | 2.91 | 1.22 | 3.44 | 1.30 | 3.36 | 1.26 | 3.40 | 1.28 |
| j. Addressed a real or imagined audience such as your classmates, a politician, non experts, etc. | WRI01j | 2.87 | 1.18 | 2.93 | 1.15 | 2.90 | 1.17 | 2.90 | 1.21 | 2.87 | 1.20 | 2.89 | 1.21 |
| 2. During the current school year, for how many of your writing assignments have your instructors done the following? | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| a. Provided clear instructions describing what they wanted you to do | WRI02a | 3.85 | .93 | 3.81 | .96 | 3.83 | .94 | 3.91 | .93 | 3.78 | 1.02 | 3.85 | .97 |
| b. Explained in advance what they wanted you to learn | WRI02b | 3.59 | 1.06 | 3.58 | 1.06 | 3.59 | 1.06 | 3.69 | 1.06 | 3.51 | 1.12 | 3.61 | 1.09 |
| c. Explained in advance the criteria they would use to grade your assignment | WRI02c | 3.88 | 1.00 | 3.82 | 1.04 | 3.85 | 1.02 | 4.02 | .99 | 3.82 | 1.09 | 3.93 | 1.04 |

Notes: Results weighted by sex, enrollment status, and institution size. See codebook for variable ranges. Categorical items are not listed.

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