

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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