



NSSE 2018 Topical Module Report

Experiences with Writing

NSSEville State University

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About This Topical Module

This module is the result of an ongoing collaboration between NSSE and the Council of Writing Program Administrators. The questions touch on three aspects of good writing assignments—interactivity, meaning-making, and clarity. It complements questions on the core survey about how much writing students do, the nature of their course assignments, and perceived gains in written expression. Complementary FSSE set available.

Comparison Group

This section summarizes how this module's comparison group was identified, including selection criteria and whether the default option was taken. This is followed by the resulting list of institutions represented in the 'Writing Experiences' column of this report.

Group label	Writing Experiences
Date submitted	5/29/18
How was this comparison group constructed?	Your institution retained the default comparison group (all module participants).
Group description	Default comparison group

Writing Experiences (N=93)

Adventist University of Health Sciences (Orlando, FL)*	Holy Cross College (Notre Dame, IN)*
Alabama A&M University (Normal, AL)	Hope College (Holland, MI)
Ashford University (San Diego, CA)	Johnson University (Knoxville, TN)*
Ashland University (Ashland, OH)	Kentucky Wesleyan College (Owensboro, KY)
Baldwin Wallace University (Berea, OH)*	Langston University (Langston, OK)
Bellarmino University (Louisville, KY)	Lindsey Wilson College (Columbia, KY)*
Bennett College (Greensboro, NC)*	Longwood University (Farmville, VA)*
Bluefield College (Bluefield, VA)	Lynn University (Boca Raton, FL)
Bryn Athyn College of the New Church (Bryn Athyn, PA)*	Mayville State University (Mayville, ND)*
California Lutheran University (Thousand Oaks, CA)*	McGill University (Montreal, QC)*
Capella University (Minneapolis, MN)*	Metropolitan State University of Denver (Denver, CO)*
Central Methodist University (Fayette, MO)	Monmouth University (West Long Branch, NJ)
Central Michigan University (Mount Pleasant, MI)*	Montana Tech of the University of Montana (Butte, MT)
Colby College (Waterville, ME)*	Nova Southeastern University (Fort Lauderdale, FL)*
College of Idaho, The (Caldwell, ID)*	Old Dominion University (Norfolk, VA)*
Colorado Technical University (Colorado Springs, CO)	Pace University (New York, NY)
Culver-Stockton College (Canton, MO)*	Pacific University (Forest Grove, OR)
Dakota Wesleyan University (Mitchell, SD)*	Rider University (Lawrenceville, NJ)
Denison University (Granville, OH)*	Rocky Mountain College (Billings, MT)*
East Carolina University (Greenville, NC)	Saint Anselm College (Manchester, NH)*
Elmhurst College (Elmhurst, IL)	Saint Joseph's University (Philadelphia, PA)
Fairfield University (Fairfield, CT)*	Seton Hall University (South Orange, NJ)
Five Towns College (Dix Hills, NY)	Simon Fraser University (Burnaby, BC)*
Fort Hays State University (Hays, KS)	Southeastern University (Lakeland, FL)*
Francis Marion University (Florence, SC)	Spalding University (Louisville, KY)*
Furman University (Greenville, SC)	Sul Ross State University (Alpine, TX)
Georgia Southern University (Statesboro, GA)*	SUNY College at Old Westbury (Old Westbury, NY)*
Grand Canyon University (Phoenix, AZ)	Tarleton State University (Stephenville, TX)*
Harvey Mudd College (Claremont, CA)	Taylor University (Upland, IN)*
Henderson State University (Arkadelphia, AR)	Texas A&M International University (Laredo, TX)

Writing Experiences (N=93), continued

Texas A&M University - Texarkana (Texarkana, TX)
Texas A&M University-Central Texas (Killeen, TX)*
Texas A&M University-Kingsville (Kingsville, TX)
Texas College (Tyler, TX)*
Union University (Jackson, TN)*
University at Albany, SUNY, The (Albany, NY)*
University at Buffalo, State University of New York (Buffalo, NY)*
University of Arkansas - Fort Smith (Fort Smith, AR)*
University of Colorado Boulder (Boulder, CO)*
University of Denver (Denver, CO)
University of Lynchburg (Lynchburg, VA)
University of Mary Hardin-Baylor (Belton, TX)
University of Mobile (Mobile, AL)
University of North Carolina at Asheville (Asheville, NC)
University of North Carolina at Pembroke (Pembroke, NC)*
University of North Florida (Jacksonville, FL)*
University of Phoenix - Colorado (Lone Tree, CO)*
University of Phoenix - Florida (Orlando, FL)*
University of Phoenix - Hawaii (Honolulu, HI)*
University of Scranton (Scranton, PA)
University of St. Thomas (Houston, TX)
University of Tampa, The (Tampa, FL)
University of Toledo (Toledo, OH)*
University of Virginia's College at Wise, The (Wise, VA)
University of Waterloo (Waterloo, ON)*
University of West Florida, The (Pensacola, FL)
University of West Georgia (Carrollton, GA)*
University of Wyoming (Laramie, WY)
Vassar College (Poughkeepsie, NY)*
Virginia Wesleyan University (Virginia Beach, VA)
Western Oregon University (Monmouth, OR)*
Western Washington University (Bellingham, WA)*
Westminster College (Fulton, MO)*

*2017 participant

First-Year Students

Item wording or description	Variable name	Values ^c	Response options	Frequency Distributions ^a				Statistical Comparisons ^b		
				NSSEville State		Writing Experiences		NSSEville State	Writing Experiences	Effect size ^d
				Count	%	Count	%	Mean	Mean	
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	1	No writing assignments	21	8	2,280	9	3.1	3.0	.03
		2	Few writing assignments	58	21	5,637	21			
		3	Some writing assignments	91	34	9,522	36			
		4	Most writing assignments	80	30	7,012	26			
		5	All writing assignments	20	7	2,100	8			
		Total		270	100	26,551	100			
b. Received feedback from a classmate, friend, or family member about a draft before turning in your final assignment	WRI01b	1	No writing assignments	13	5	2,372	9	3.1	3.1	.04
		2	Few writing assignments	55	20	5,227	20			
		3	Some writing assignments	98	36	8,550	32			
		4	Most writing assignments	85	32	7,705	29			
		5	All writing assignments	18	7	2,530	10			
		Total		269	100	26,384	100			
c. Given feedback to a classmate about a draft or outline	WRI01c	1	No writing assignments	12	4	2,732	10	3.1	3.0	.10
		2	Few writing assignments	52	19	5,564	21			
		3	Some writing assignments	122	45	9,725	37			
		4	Most writing assignments	72	27	6,775	26			
		5	All writing assignments	12	4	1,705	6			
		Total		270	100	26,501	100			
d. Summarized material you read such as articles, books, or online publications	WRI01d	1	No writing assignments	4	1	1,449	5	3.4	3.3 **	.17
		2	Few writing assignments	31	11	4,161	16			
		3	Some writing assignments	103	38	9,446	36			
		4	Most writing assignments	107	40	8,802	33			
		5	All writing assignments	25	9	2,619	10			
		Total		270	100	26,477	100			
e. Analyzed or evaluated something you read, researched, or observed	WRI01e	1	No writing assignments	2	1	842	3	3.9	3.6 ***	.30
		2	Few writing assignments	7	3	2,626	10			
		3	Some writing assignments	66	24	7,798	29			
		4	Most writing assignments	149	55	11,068	42			
		5	All writing assignments	46	17	4,127	16			
		Total		270	100	26,461	100			
f. Described your methods or findings related to data you collected in lab or field work, a survey project, etc.	WRI01f	1	No writing assignments	64	24	4,315	16	2.5	2.9 ***	-.31
		2	Few writing assignments	68	25	5,274	20			
		3	Some writing assignments	78	29	8,269	31			
		4	Most writing assignments	49	18	6,553	25			
		5	All writing assignments	9	3	2,013	8			
		Total		268	100	26,424	100			
g. Argued a position using evidence and reasoning	WRI01g	1	No writing assignments	3	1	1,782	7	3.7	3.4 ***	.33
		2	Few writing assignments	26	10	3,549	13			
		3	Some writing assignments	64	24	8,111	31			
		4	Most writing assignments	130	48	9,451	36			
		5	All writing assignments	46	17	3,551	13			
		Total		269	100	26,444	100			

First-Year Students

Item wording or description	Variable name	Values ^c	Response options	Frequency Distributions ^a				Statistical Comparisons ^b		
				NSSEville State		Writing Experiences		NSSEville State	Writing Experiences	Effect size ^d
				Count	%	Count	%	Mean	Mean	
h. Explained in writing the meaning of numerical or statistical data	WRI01h	1	No writing assignments	81	30	6,168	23	2.3	2.6 ***	-0.27
		2	Few writing assignments	76	28	6,276	24			
		3	Some writing assignments	73	27	7,432	28			
		4	Most writing assignments	33	12	5,021	19			
		5	All writing assignments	6	2	1,518	6			
		Total		269	100	26,415	100			
i. Written in the style and format of a specific field (engineering, history, psychology, etc.)	WRI01i	1	No writing assignments	49	18	4,301	16	2.8	3.0 *	-0.14
		2	Few writing assignments	55	20	4,778	18			
		3	Some writing assignments	81	30	7,514	28			
		4	Most writing assignments	67	25	6,653	25			
		5	All writing assignments	18	7	3,197	12			
		Total		270	100	26,443	100			
j. Addressed a real or imagined audience such as your classmates, a politician, non-experts, etc.	WRI01j	1	No writing assignments	42	16	4,464	17	2.7	2.8	-0.11
		2	Few writing assignments	80	30	5,569	21			
		3	Some writing assignments	72	27	8,146	31			
		4	Most writing assignments	64	24	5,983	23			
		5	All writing assignments	11	4	2,212	8			
		Total		269	100	26,374	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	1	No writing assignments	1	0	561	2	4.0	3.8 ***	.16
		2	Few writing assignments	12	4	1,913	7			
		3	Some writing assignments	37	14	5,894	22			
		4	Most writing assignments	167	62	11,827	45			
		5	All writing assignments	52	19	6,213	24			
		Total		269	100	26,408	100			
b. Explained in advance what they wanted you to learn	WRI02b	1	No writing assignments	5	2	1,064	4	3.5	3.6	-0.01
		2	Few writing assignments	41	15	3,309	13			
		3	Some writing assignments	77	29	7,434	28			
		4	Most writing assignments	95	35	9,153	35			
		5	All writing assignments	50	19	5,425	21			
		Total		268	100	26,385	100			
c. Explained in advance the criteria they would use to grade your assignment	WRI02c	1	No writing assignments	2	1	728	3	3.7	3.8	-0.10
		2	Few writing assignments	31	11	2,153	8			
		3	Some writing assignments	70	26	5,936	22			
		4	Most writing assignments	103	38	9,600	36			
		5	All writing assignments	64	24	7,992	30			
		Total		270	100	26,409	100			

*p<.05, **p<.01, ***p<.001 (2-tailed); Refer to the endnotes page for the key to triangle symbols.

Seniors

Item wording or description	Variable name	Values ^c	Response options	Frequency Distributions ^a				Statistical Comparisons ^b		
				NSSEville State		Writing Experiences		NSSEville State	Writing Experiences	
				Count	%	Count	%	Mean	Mean	Effect size ^d
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	1	No writing assignments	14	7	2,993	10	3.1	3.0	.06
		2	Few writing assignments	38	19	6,795	22			
		3	Some writing assignments	84	42	10,764	35			
		4	Most writing assignments	48	24	7,543	25			
		5	All writing assignments	16	8	2,690	9			
		Total		200	100	30,785	100			
b. Received feedback from a classmate, friend, or family member about a draft before turning in your final assignment	WRI01b	1	No writing assignments	18	9	4,330	14	3.0	2.8	.13
		2	Few writing assignments	47	24	7,592	25			
		3	Some writing assignments	67	34	9,891	32			
		4	Most writing assignments	56	28	6,518	21			
		5	All writing assignments	11	6	2,299	8			
		Total		199	100	30,630	100			
c. Given feedback to a classmate about a draft or outline	WRI01c	1	No writing assignments	16	8	5,339	17	2.7	2.7	.07
		2	Few writing assignments	59	30	7,904	26			
		3	Some writing assignments	92	46	10,937	36			
		4	Most writing assignments	30	15	5,160	17			
		5	All writing assignments	3	2	1,394	5			
		Total		200	100	30,734	100			
d. Summarized material you read such as articles, books, or online publications	WRI01d	1	No writing assignments	2	1	1,741	6	3.5	3.4	.09
		2	Few writing assignments	23	12	4,169	14			
		3	Some writing assignments	78	39	10,170	33			
		4	Most writing assignments	75	38	10,493	34			
		5	All writing assignments	22	11	4,124	13			
		Total		200	100	30,697	100			
e. Analyzed or evaluated something you read, researched, or observed	WRI01e	1	No writing assignments	1	1	1,039	3	4.0	3.7 ***	.29
		2	Few writing assignments	7	4	2,599	8			
		3	Some writing assignments	38	19	7,763	25			
		4	Most writing assignments	106	53	13,083	43			
		5	All writing assignments	48	24	6,227	20			
		Total		200	100	30,711	100			
f. Described your methods or findings related to data you collected in lab or field work, a survey project, etc.	WRI01f	1	No writing assignments	30	15	4,004	13	2.9	3.1 *	-.17
		2	Few writing assignments	38	19	5,516	18			
		3	Some writing assignments	73	37	9,339	30			
		4	Most writing assignments	50	25	8,578	28			
		5	All writing assignments	9	5	3,235	11			
		Total		200	100	30,672	100			
g. Argued a position using evidence and reasoning	WRI01g	1	No writing assignments	4	2	2,399	8	3.9	3.3 ***	.49
		2	Few writing assignments	9	5	4,270	14			
		3	Some writing assignments	44	22	9,415	31			
		4	Most writing assignments	92	46	9,966	32			
		5	All writing assignments	50	25	4,650	15			
		Total		199	100	30,700	100			

Seniors

Item wording or description	Variable name	Values ^c	Response options	Frequency Distributions ^a				Statistical Comparisons ^b		
				NSSEville State		Writing Experiences		NSSEville State	Writing Experiences	
				Count	%	Count	%	Mean	Mean	Effect size ^d
h. Explained in writing the meaning of numerical or statistical data	WRI01h	1	No writing assignments	36	18	4,988	16	2.7	2.8	-.10
		2	Few writing assignments	41	21	7,081	23			
		3	Some writing assignments	78	39	9,542	31			
		4	Most writing assignments	37	19	6,677	22			
		5	All writing assignments	8	4	2,360	8			
		Total		200	100	30,648	100			
i. Written in the style and format of a specific field (engineering, history, psychology, etc.)	WRI01i	1	No writing assignments	9	5	3,193	10	3.6	3.4 *	.12 △
		2	Few writing assignments	20	10	3,935	13			
		3	Some writing assignments	54	27	6,908	23			
		4	Most writing assignments	76	38	9,237	30			
		5	All writing assignments	41	21	7,393	24			
		Total		200	100	30,666	100			
j. Addressed a real or imagined audience such as your classmates, a politician, non-experts, etc.	WRI01j	1	No writing assignments	23	12	4,798	16	3.0	2.9	.09
		2	Few writing assignments	39	20	6,241	20			
		3	Some writing assignments	73	37	9,693	32			
		4	Most writing assignments	42	21	6,726	22			
		5	All writing assignments	23	12	3,109	10			
		Total		200	100	30,567	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	1	No writing assignments	1	1	723	2	3.9	3.9	.00
		2	Few writing assignments	5	3	1,817	6			
		3	Some writing assignments	45	23	6,290	21			
		4	Most writing assignments	120	60	14,245	46			
		5	All writing assignments	29	15	7,590	25			
		Total		200	100	30,665	100			
b. Explained in advance what they wanted you to learn	WRI02b	1	No writing assignments	6	3	1,250	4	3.4	3.6 ***	-.22 ▽
		2	Few writing assignments	32	16	3,619	12			
		3	Some writing assignments	67	34	8,188	27			
		4	Most writing assignments	72	36	10,561	35			
		5	All writing assignments	22	11	6,992	23			
		Total		199	100	30,610	100			
c. Explained in advance the criteria they would use to grade your assignment	WRI02c	1	No writing assignments	2	1	829	3	3.9	3.9	-.07
		2	Few writing assignments	11	6	2,085	7			
		3	Some writing assignments	36	18	5,831	19			
		4	Most writing assignments	111	56	11,308	37			
		5	All writing assignments	38	19	10,596	35			
		Total		198	100	30,649	100			

*p<.05, **p<.01, ***p<.001 (2-tailed); Refer to the endnotes page for the key to triangle symbols.

NSSE 2018 Experiences with Writing

Detailed Statistics^e

NSSEville State University

First-Year Students

Variable name	N	Mean		Standard error ^f		Standard deviation ^g		DF ^h	Sig. ⁱ	Effect size ^d
	NSSEville State	NSSEville State	Writing Experiences	NSSEville State	Writing Experiences	NSSEville State	Writing Experiences	Comparisons with: Writing Experiences		
WRI01a	270	3.07	3.04	.06	.01	1.06	1.07	26,492	.578	.03
WRI01b	269	3.15	3.11	.06	.01	0.98	1.11	275	.473	.04
WRI01c	270	3.07	2.97	.05	.01	0.90	1.07	277	.054	.10
WRI01d	270	3.44	3.26	.05	.01	0.87	1.02	277	.001	.17
WRI01e	270	3.85	3.56	.05	.01	0.75	0.98	278	.000	.30
WRI01f	268	2.52	2.88	.07	.01	1.14	1.18	26,365	.000	-.31
WRI01g	269	3.71	3.35	.05	.01	0.90	1.08	276	.000	.33
WRI01h	269	2.28	2.60	.07	.01	1.09	1.20	275	.000	-.27
WRI01i	270	2.81	2.99	.07	.01	1.19	1.25	26,384	.023	-.14
WRI01j	269	2.71	2.85	.07	.01	1.12	1.20	26,316	.062	-.11
WRI02a	269	3.96	3.80	.04	.01	0.74	0.95	277	.001	.16
WRI02b	268	3.54	3.55	.06	.01	1.02	1.07	26,326	.818	-.01
WRI02c	270	3.73	3.83	.06	.01	0.98	1.04	26,350	.089	-.10

NSSE 2018 Experiences with Writing

Detailed Statistics^e

NSSEville State University

Seniors

Variable name	N	Mean		Standard error ^f		Standard deviation ^g		DF ^h	Sig. ⁱ	Effect size ^d
	NSSEville State	NSSEville State	Writing Experiences	NSSEville State	Writing Experiences	NSSEville State	Writing Experiences			
WRI01a	200	3.07	3.00	.07	.01	1.02	1.10	30,745	.397	.06
WRI01b	199	2.97	2.83	.07	.01	1.05	1.14	201	.056	.13
WRI01c	200	2.73	2.65	.06	.01	0.87	1.09	203	.247	.07
WRI01d	200	3.46	3.36	.06	.01	0.87	1.06	203	.112	.09
WRI01e	200	3.97	3.68	.06	.01	0.79	1.00	203	.000	.29
WRI01f	200	2.85	3.05	.08	.01	1.10	1.18	30,632	.016	-.17
WRI01g	199	3.88	3.33	.06	.01	0.91	1.13	202	.000	.49
WRI01h	200	2.70	2.82	.08	.01	1.09	1.17	30,608	.161	-.10
WRI01i	200	3.60	3.45	.08	.01	1.06	1.27	203	.042	.12
WRI01j	200	3.02	2.90	.08	.01	1.15	1.20	30,527	.197	.09
WRI02a	200	3.86	3.85	.05	.01	0.70	0.94	204	.967	.00
WRI02b	199	3.36	3.60	.07	.01	0.98	1.09	201	.001	-.22
WRI02c	198	3.87	3.94	.06	.01	0.82	1.03	201	.232	-.07

See the endnotes on the last page of this report.

Endnotes

- a. Column percentages are weighted by institution-reported sex and enrollment status (and institution size for comparison groups). Percentages may not sum to 100 due to rounding. Counts are unweighted; column percentages cannot be replicated from counts.
- b. All statistics are weighted by institution-reported sex and enrollment status (and institution size for comparison groups). Unless otherwise noted, statistical comparisons are two-tailed independent t -tests. Items with categorical response sets are left blank.
- c. These are the values used to calculate means. For the majority of items, these values match the codes in the data file and codebook.
- d. Effect size for independent t -tests uses Cohen's d ; z -tests use Cohen's h .
- e. Statistics are weighted by institution-reported sex and enrollment status (and institution size for comparison groups). Categorical items are not listed.
- f. The 95% confidence interval for the population mean is equal to the sample mean plus or minus 1.96 times the standard error of the mean.
- g. A measure of the amount individual scores deviate from the mean of all the scores in the distribution.
- h. Degrees of freedom used to compute the t -tests. Values differ from N s due to weighting and whether equal variances were assumed.
- i. Statistical comparisons are two-tailed independent t -tests or z -tests. Statistical significance represents the probability that the difference between your students' mean and that of the students in the comparison group is due to chance.
- j. Statistical comparison uses z -test to compare the proportion who responded (depending on the item) "Done or in progress" or "Yes" with all who responded otherwise.
- k. Mean represents the proportion who responded (depending on the item) "Done or in progress" or "Yes."

Key to symbols:

- ▲ **Your students' average** was significantly higher ($p < .05$) with an effect size at least .3 in magnitude.
- △ **Your students' average** was significantly higher ($p < .05$) with an effect size less than .3 in magnitude.
- ▽ **Your students' average** was significantly lower ($p < .05$) with an effect size less than .3 in magnitude.
- ▼ **Your students' average** was significantly lower ($p < .05$) with an effect size at least .3 in magnitude.

Note: It is important to interpret the direction of differences relative to item wording and your institutional context.