

2018 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 2018, 44 U.S. institutions elected to append these items to the core survey. Of these, all 44 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 2018 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 2018	U.S. ^b	Writing Module	NSSE 2018	U.S. ^b
	(%)	(%)	(%)	(%)	(%)	(%)
Carnegie Basic Classification^c						
R1: Doctoral Universities - Highest research activity	0	5	7	0	15	27
R2: Doctoral Universities - Higher research activity	7	8	6	10	16	14
R3: Doctoral Universities - Moderate research activity	14	8	7	35	14	10
M1: Master's Colleges and Universities - Larger programs	34	27	24	34	29	28
M2: Master's Colleges and Universities - Medium programs	14	17	13	7	10	7
M3: Master's Colleges and Universities - Smaller programs	2	8	8	2	4	3
Baccalaureate Colleges: Arts & Sciences Focus	16	16	15	9	8	4
Baccalaureate Colleges: Diverse Fields	14	11	19	3	4	5
Control						
Public	34	39	35	26	57	67
Private	66	61	65	74	43	33
Undergraduate enrollment						
Fewer than 1,000	9	12	22	2	3	2
1,000 – 2,499	27	33	32	10	14	10
2,500 – 4,999	32	23	18	24	18	11
5,000 – 9,999	20	16	14	24	20	18
10,000 – 19,999	2	9	9	2	20	24
20,000 or more	9	6	6	38	25	35

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 2018 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	%
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	574	9	274	10	848	10	805	9	460	13	1,265	11
		Few writing assignments	1,434	20	582	21	2,016	21	1,973	21	833	23	2,806	22
		Some writing assignments	2,565	34	1,047	36	3,612	35	3,301	35	1,268	34	4,569	34
		Most writing assignments	1,977	26	678	23	2,655	25	2,295	24	785	21	3,080	23
		All writing assignments	676	10	245	10	921	10	973	11	336	9	1,309	10
		Total	7,226	100	2,826	100	10,052	100	9,347	100	3,682	100	13,029	100
b. Received feedback from a classmate, friend, or family member about a draft before turning in your final assignment	WRI01b	No writing assignments	552	9	216	8	768	9	1,188	13	549	16	1,737	14
		Few writing assignments	1,244	17	543	20	1,787	18	2,226	24	900	24	3,126	24
		Some writing assignments	2,264	30	960	33	3,224	31	3,095	33	1,171	31	4,266	32
		Most writing assignments	2,257	30	830	29	3,087	30	2,002	21	743	20	2,745	21
		All writing assignments	883	13	256	10	1,139	12	797	9	301	8	1,098	9
		Total	7,200	100	2,805	100	10,005	100	9,308	100	3,664	100	12,972	100
c. Gave feedback to a classmate about a draft or outline	WRI01c	No writing assignments	674	12	284	11	958	11	1,778	21	650	19	2,428	20
		Few writing assignments	1,366	19	533	19	1,899	19	2,321	25	929	25	3,250	25
		Some writing assignments	2,530	33	1,058	36	3,588	34	3,184	33	1,261	33	4,445	33
		Most writing assignments	2,033	27	740	26	2,773	26	1,567	17	640	17	2,207	17
		All writing assignments	614	9	205	8	819	9	479	5	196	6	675	5
		Total	7,217	100	2,820	100	10,037	100	9,329	100	3,676	100	13,005	100
d. Summarized material you read, such as articles, books, or online publications	WRI01d	No writing assignments	257	4	118	4	375	4	363	4	208	6	571	5
		Few writing assignments	954	14	404	15	1,358	14	1,064	12	497	13	1,561	12
		Some writing assignments	2,545	34	1,048	36	3,593	35	2,974	31	1,246	33	4,220	32
		Most writing assignments	2,536	34	948	33	3,484	33	3,312	35	1,222	33	4,534	34
		All writing assignments	918	14	298	11	1,216	13	1,605	18	497	14	2,102	17
		Total	7,210	100	2,816	100	10,026	100	9,318	100	3,670	100	12,988	100
e. Analyzed or evaluated something you read, researched, or observed	WRI01e	No writing assignments	148	3	69	3	217	3	211	2	125	4	336	3
		Few writing assignments	597	9	231	9	828	9	683	7	292	8	975	8
		Some writing assignments	1,998	27	872	30	2,870	29	2,246	24	915	25	3,161	24
		Most writing assignments	3,119	41	1,213	42	4,332	41	4,028	42	1,571	42	5,599	42
		All writing assignments	1,341	20	432	16	1,773	18	2,159	24	769	21	2,928	23
		Total	7,203	100	2,817	100	10,020	100	9,327	100	3,672	100	12,999	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	1,194	17	403	14	1,597	16	1,113	12	417	12	1,530	12
		Few writing assignments	1,401	19	575	20	1,976	20	1,589	17	600	16	2,189	17
		Some writing assignments	2,131	29	907	31	3,038	30	2,767	29	1,190	32	3,957	30
		Most writing assignments	1,814	24	689	25	2,503	24	2,673	28	1,043	28	3,716	28
		All writing assignments	656	10	228	9	884	10	1,156	13	425	12	1,581	13
		Total	7,196	100	2,802	100	9,998	100	9,298	100	3,675	100	12,973	100
g. Argued a position using evidence and reasoning	WRI01g	No writing assignments	435	8	143	6	578	7	649	7	263	8	912	7
		Few writing assignments	953	14	316	12	1,269	13	1,337	15	452	13	1,789	14
		Some writing assignments	2,226	31	913	32	3,139	31	2,904	31	1,189	32	4,093	31
		Most writing assignments	2,549	33	1,024	35	3,573	34	3,046	32	1,206	32	4,252	32
		All writing assignments	1,031	14	415	15	1,446	15	1,386	15	562	16	1,948	15
		Total	7,194	100	2,811	100	10,005	100	9,322	100	3,672	100	12,994	100
h. Explained in writing the meaning of numerical or statistical data	WRI01h	No writing assignments	2,045	30	552	20	2,597	26	1,605	17	460	13	2,065	16
		Few writing assignments	1,739	24	599	22	2,338	23	2,318	25	751	21	3,069	23
		Some writing assignments	1,837	25	902	31	2,739	27	3,005	32	1,262	35	4,267	33
		Most writing assignments	1,177	15	572	20	1,749	17	1,717	18	859	23	2,576	20
		All writing assignments	395	6	180	7	575	6	656	7	336	9	992	8
		Total	7,193	100	2,805	100	9,998	100	9,301	100	3,668	100	12,969	100

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

NSSE 2018 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	1,340	20	389	15	1,729	18	1,081	12	359	10	1,440	11
		Few writing assignments	1,359	19	482	17	1,841	18	1,213	13	478	13	1,691	13
		Some writing assignments	1,979	26	890	30	2,869	28	2,076	22	906	24	2,982	23
		Most writing assignments	1,647	22	718	25	2,365	23	2,581	27	1,151	31	3,732	28
		All writing assignments	875	13	335	13	1,210	13	2,353	25	780	22	3,133	24
		Total	7,200	100	2,814	100	10,014	100	9,304	100	3,674	100	12,978	100
j. Addressed a real or imagined audience such as your classmates, a politician, non-experts, etc.	WRI01j	No writing assignments	1,207	18	337	13	1,544	16	1,399	16	484	13	1,883	15
		Few writing assignments	1,455	20	553	19	2,008	20	1,837	19	717	20	2,554	19
		Some writing assignments	2,138	29	949	33	3,087	30	2,940	31	1,218	33	4,158	32
		Most writing assignments	1,668	22	693	25	2,361	23	2,083	22	845	23	2,928	23
		All writing assignments	717	11	271	10	988	11	1,014	11	396	11	1,410	11
		Total	7,185	100	2,803	100	9,988	100	9,273	100	3,660	100	12,933	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	92	2	48	2	140	2	138	2	95	3	233	2
		Few writing assignments	452	6	183	6	635	6	508	6	237	7	745	6
		Some writing assignments	1,457	19	611	21	2,068	20	1,695	18	702	19	2,397	18
		Most writing assignments	3,159	42	1,231	42	4,390	42	4,229	44	1,633	44	5,862	44
		All writing assignments	2,027	31	735	29	2,762	30	2,743	31	1,009	28	3,752	30
		Total	7,187	100	2,808	100	9,995	100	9,313	100	3,676	100	12,989	100
b. Explained in advance what they wanted you to learn	WRI02b	No writing assignments	197	3	88	3	285	3	254	3	162	5	416	4
		Few writing assignments	792	10	269	9	1,061	10	881	9	369	10	1,250	9
		Some writing assignments	1,829	24	773	26	2,602	24	2,154	22	940	25	3,094	23
		Most writing assignments	2,465	33	1,031	35	3,496	34	3,252	34	1,249	33	4,501	34
		All writing assignments	1,895	30	652	26	2,547	29	2,740	31	948	27	3,688	30
		Total	7,178	100	2,813	100	9,991	100	9,281	100	3,668	100	12,949	100
c. Explained in advance the criteria they would use to grade your assignment	WRI02c	No writing assignments	132	2	58	2	190	2	137	2	109	3	246	2
		Few writing assignments	492	7	180	6	672	6	496	5	225	6	721	6
		Some writing assignments	1,437	18	641	21	2,078	19	1,457	15	682	18	2,139	16
		Most writing assignments	2,462	32	1,016	34	3,478	32	3,233	33	1,233	33	4,466	33
		All writing assignments	2,664	41	920	36	3,584	39	3,982	45	1,420	40	5,402	43
		Total	7,187	100	2,815	100	10,002	100	9,305	100	3,669	100	12,974	100

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

NSSE 2018 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	3.08	1.12	3.01	1.11	3.05	1.12	3.05	1.12	2.90	1.15	3.00	1.13
b. Received feedback from a classmate, friend, or family member about a draft before turning in your final assignment	WRI01b	3.20	1.15	3.13	1.10	3.17	1.13	2.88	1.15	2.81	1.17	2.86	1.16
c. Gave feedback to a classmate about a draft or outline	WRI01c	3.02	1.13	3.01	1.10	3.02	1.12	2.62	1.14	2.66	1.14	2.63	1.14
d. Summarized material you read, such as articles, books, or online publications	WRI01d	3.39	1.03	3.33	1.00	3.36	1.02	3.51	1.04	3.36	1.06	3.46	1.05
e. Analyzed or evaluated something you read, researched, or observed	WRI01e	3.66	.98	3.60	.95	3.64	.97	3.78	.97	3.70	1.01	3.75	.99
f. Described your methods or findings related to data you collected in lab or field work, a survey project, etc.	WRI01f	2.91	1.23	2.94	1.18	2.92	1.21	3.13	1.20	3.13	1.18	3.13	1.19
g. Argued a position using evidence and reasoning	WRI01g	3.32	1.12	3.42	1.07	3.36	1.10	3.33	1.12	3.35	1.12	3.33	1.12
h. Explained in writing the meaning of numerical or statistical data	WRI01h	2.43	1.23	2.73	1.20	2.54	1.23	2.73	1.16	2.96	1.15	2.82	1.16
i. Wrote in the style and format of a specific field (engineering, history, psychology, etc.)	WRI01i	2.88	1.31	3.05	1.24	2.95	1.28	3.40	1.32	3.41	1.24	3.40	1.29
j. Addressed a real or imagined audience such as your classmates, a politician, non-experts, etc.	WRI01j	2.88	1.25	3.01	1.17	2.93	1.22	2.94	1.22	2.98	1.18	2.96	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	3.94	.95	3.89	.97	3.92	.96	3.97	.93	3.88	.98	3.94	.95
b. Explained in advance what they wanted you to learn	WRI02b	3.77	1.08	3.72	1.06	3.75	1.07	3.82	1.06	3.68	1.11	3.77	1.08
c. Explained in advance the criteria they would use to grade your assignment	WRI02c	4.03	1.03	3.96	1.01	4.01	1.02	4.14	.97	4.00	1.05	4.09	1.00

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

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