



NSSE 2019 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	5/29/19
How was this comparison group constructed?	Your institution retained the default comparison group (all module participants).
Group description	Default comparison group

Writing Experiences (N=71)

Anna Maria College (Paxton, MA)	Monmouth University (West Long Branch, NJ)*
Ashford University (San Diego, CA)*	Montana Tech of the University of Montana (Butte, MT)*
Ashland University (Ashland, OH)*	Norfolk State University (Norfolk, VA)
Augsburg University (Minneapolis, MN)	Nova Southeastern University (Fort Lauderdale, FL)
Bellarmino University (Louisville, KY)*	Occidental College (Los Angeles, CA)
Bethany College (Lindsborg, KS)	Oregon State University (Corvallis, OR)
Bluefield College (Bluefield, VA)	Pace University (New York, NY)*
Bowling Green State University (Bowling Green, OH)	Pacific University (Forest Grove, OR)*
Brigham Young University (Provo, UT)	Redeemer University College (Ancaster, ON)
Capital University (Columbus, OH)	Rocky Mountain College (Billings, MT)
Carroll University (Waukesha, WI)	Saint Anselm College (Manchester, NH)
Catawba College (Salisbury, NC)	Saint Joseph's University (Philadelphia, PA)*
Cedar Crest College (Allentown, PA)	Savannah College of Art and Design (Savannah, GA)
College of Saint Rose, The (Albany, NY)	Southern Utah University (Cedar City, UT)
Colorado Technical University (Colorado Springs, CO)*	St. Olaf College (Northfield, MN)*
Columbia Southern University (Orange Beach, AL)	Tabor College (Hillsboro, KS)
East Carolina University (Greenville, NC)*	Tarleton State University (Stephenville, TX)
Elmhurst College (Elmhurst, IL)*	Texas A&M International University (Laredo, TX)*
Fort Hays State University (Hays, KS)*	Texas A&M University-Central Texas (Killeen, TX)
Furman University (Greenville, SC)*	Texas A&M University-Kingsville (Kingsville, TX)
Georgian Court University (Lakewood, NJ)	Texas College (Tyler, TX)
Grand Canyon University (Phoenix, AZ)*	Union University (Jackson, TN)
Henderson State University (Arkadelphia, AR)	University of Denver (Denver, CO)*
Hiram College (Hiram, OH)	University of Houston-Downtown (Houston, TX)
Kentucky Wesleyan College (Owensboro, KY)	University of Lynchburg (Lynchburg, VA)*
Langston University (Langston, OK)*	University of Mary Hardin-Baylor (Belton, TX)*
Lees-McRae College (Banner Elk, NC)	University of Mobile (Mobile, AL)*
Lycoming College (Williamsport, PA)	University of North Carolina at Asheville (Asheville, NC)*
Lynn University (Boca Raton, FL)*	University of Southern Indiana (Evansville, IN)
Miami University-Oxford (Oxford, OH)	University of St. Thomas (Houston, TX)

Writing Experiences (N=71), continued

University of Tampa, The (Tampa, FL)

University of the Cumberlands (Williamsburg, KY)

University of the Incarnate Word (San Antonio, TX)

University of Toledo (Toledo, OH)

University of Virginia's College at Wise, The (Wise, VA)*

University of West Florida, The (Pensacola, FL)*

University of West Georgia (Carrollton, GA)

Valparaiso University (Valparaiso, IN)

Virginia State University (Petersburg, VA)

Virginia Wesleyan University (Virginia Beach, VA)

Washington State University (Pullman, WA)

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	55	9	1,513	9	3.1	3.0	.05
		2	Few writing assignments	117	17	4,055	22			
		3	Some writing assignments	277	39	6,994	36			
		4	Most writing assignments	191	28	5,054	25			
		5	All writing assignments	49	7	1,566	9			
		Total		689	100	19,182	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	49	7	1,435	8	3.1	3.2	-.06
		2	Few writing assignments	137	20	3,598	19			
		3	Some writing assignments	241	35	6,011	31			
		4	Most writing assignments	209	30	5,951	30			
		5	All writing assignments	50	7	2,140	11			
		Total		686	100	19,135	100			
c. Given feedback to a classmate about a draft or outline	WRI01c	1	No writing assignments	61	9	1,800	11	3.0	3.0	.01
		2	Few writing assignments	147	21	3,944	21			
		3	Some writing assignments	248	36	6,998	36			
		4	Most writing assignments	193	28	5,042	25			
		5	All writing assignments	39	6	1,382	8			
		Total		688	100	19,166	100			
d. Summarized material you read such as articles, books, or online publications	WRI01d	1	No writing assignments	24	4	713	4	3.4	3.3 *	.08
		2	Few writing assignments	89	13	2,724	15			
		3	Some writing assignments	228	33	7,034	37			
		4	Most writing assignments	274	40	6,633	33			
		5	All writing assignments	72	10	2,043	11			
		Total		687	100	19,147	100			
e. Analyzed or evaluated something you read, researched, or observed	WRI01e	1	No writing assignments	17	3	388	2	3.6	3.6	.01
		2	Few writing assignments	54	8	1,701	10			
		3	Some writing assignments	197	28	5,603	30			
		4	Most writing assignments	322	47	8,266	41			
		5	All writing assignments	97	14	3,188	17			
		Total		687	100	19,146	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	112	16	3,009	15	2.9	2.9	-.03
		2	Few writing assignments	144	20	4,039	21			
		3	Some writing assignments	212	31	5,998	32			
		4	Most writing assignments	175	26	4,564	24			
		5	All writing assignments	45	7	1,491	9			
		Total		688	100	19,101	100			
g. Argued a position using evidence and reasoning	WRI01g	1	No writing assignments	45	7	1,074	6	3.4	3.3	.07
		2	Few writing assignments	71	10	2,553	14			
		3	Some writing assignments	213	31	6,024	32			
		4	Most writing assignments	271	39	6,889	34			
		5	All writing assignments	89	13	2,571	13			
		Total		689	100	19,111	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	154	22	4,650	24	2.6	2.6	.05
		2	Few writing assignments	173	25	4,846	25			
		3	Some writing assignments	187	28	5,327	28			
		4	Most writing assignments	143	21	3,236	17			
		5	All writing assignments	30	5	1,030	6			
		Total		687	100	19,089	100			
i. Written in the style and format of a specific field (engineering, history, psychology, etc.)	WRI01i	1	No writing assignments	112	16	3,101	17	2.9	3.0	-.04
		2	Few writing assignments	129	19	3,692	19			
		3	Some writing assignments	214	32	5,423	28			
		4	Most writing assignments	171	25	4,692	24			
		5	All writing assignments	61	9	2,210	12			
		Total		687	100	19,118	100			
j. Addressed a real or imagined audience such as your classmates, a politician, non-experts, etc.	WRI01j	1	No writing assignments	103	15	2,832	15	3.0	2.9	.06
		2	Few writing assignments	109	16	3,851	20			
		3	Some writing assignments	215	32	5,936	31			
		4	Most writing assignments	198	29	4,571	23			
		5	All writing assignments	59	9	1,893	10			
		Total		684	100	19,083	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	15	2	283	2	3.8	3.9 ***	-.13
		2	Few writing assignments	48	7	1,181	7			
		3	Some writing assignments	167	24	3,940	21			
		4	Most writing assignments	310	44	8,767	44			
		5	All writing assignments	147	22	4,919	27			
		Total		687	100	19,090	100			
b. Explained in advance what they wanted you to learn	WRI02b	1	No writing assignments	21	3	548	3	3.6	3.7 *	-.10
		2	Few writing assignments	79	12	2,138	11			
		3	Some writing assignments	189	28	5,158	26			
		4	Most writing assignments	270	39	6,867	35			
		5	All writing assignments	127	18	4,348	25			
		Total		686	100	19,059	100			
c. Explained in advance the criteria they would use to grade your assignment	WRI02c	1	No writing assignments	15	2	345	2	3.9	4.0 **	-.10
		2	Few writing assignments	55	9	1,199	6			
		3	Some writing assignments	142	21	3,856	20			
		4	Most writing assignments	252	36	7,082	35			
		5	All writing assignments	220	32	6,590	37			
		Total		684	100	19,072	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	75	9	2,361	11	3.1	3.0 **	.11
		2	Few writing assignments	162	20	5,256	22			
		3	Some writing assignments	284	34	8,195	34			
		4	Most writing assignments	226	27	5,823	24			
		5	All writing assignments	86	10	2,043	9			
		Total		833	100	23,678	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	101	12	3,176	15	2.9	2.8 *	.09
		2	Few writing assignments	186	22	5,723	24			
		3	Some writing assignments	268	33	7,610	32			
		4	Most writing assignments	203	24	5,243	21			
		5	All writing assignments	74	9	1,847	8			
		Total		832	100	23,599	100			
c. Given feedback to a classmate about a draft or outline	WRI01c	1	No writing assignments	117	14	4,455	20	2.8	2.6 ***	.15
		2	Few writing assignments	208	25	5,849	24			
		3	Some writing assignments	282	34	8,154	34			
		4	Most writing assignments	178	21	4,079	17			
		5	All writing assignments	49	6	1,101	5			
		Total		834	100	23,638	100			
d. Summarized material you read such as articles, books, or online publications	WRI01d	1	No writing assignments	45	6	1,090	5	3.3	3.4	-.07
		2	Few writing assignments	119	14	2,980	13			
		3	Some writing assignments	266	33	7,722	33			
		4	Most writing assignments	304	36	8,490	35			
		5	All writing assignments	98	12	3,332	14			
		Total		832	100	23,614	100			
e. Analyzed or evaluated something you read, researched, or observed	WRI01e	1	No writing assignments	32	4	644	3	3.6	3.7 **	-.11
		2	Few writing assignments	66	8	1,842	8			
		3	Some writing assignments	230	28	5,717	24			
		4	Most writing assignments	364	43	10,414	43			
		5	All writing assignments	141	17	5,012	21			
		Total		833	100	23,629	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	103	12	2,882	12	3.1	3.1	-.01
		2	Few writing assignments	138	17	4,186	17			
		3	Some writing assignments	260	31	7,220	30			
		4	Most writing assignments	250	30	6,728	28			
		5	All writing assignments	82	10	2,569	11			
		Total		833	100	23,585	100			
g. Argued a position using evidence and reasoning	WRI01g	1	No writing assignments	70	9	1,758	8	3.2	3.3	-.06
		2	Few writing assignments	131	16	3,426	15			
		3	Some writing assignments	283	34	7,356	31			
		4	Most writing assignments	228	27	7,751	32			
		5	All writing assignments	118	14	3,326	14			
		Total		830	100	23,617	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	Effect size ^d
				Count	%	Count	%	Mean	Mean	
h. Explained in writing the meaning of numerical or statistical data	WRI01h	1	No writing assignments	126	15	3,739	16	3.0	2.8 ***	.12
		2	Few writing assignments	167	20	5,515	23			
		3	Some writing assignments	245	30	7,548	32			
		4	Most writing assignments	211	26	5,045	22			
		5	All writing assignments	84	10	1,737	8			
		Total		833	100	23,584	100			
i. Written in the style and format of a specific field (engineering, history, psychology, etc.)	WRI01i	1	No writing assignments	107	13	2,585	11	3.4	3.4	-.03
		2	Few writing assignments	111	13	3,095	13			
		3	Some writing assignments	183	22	5,308	23			
		4	Most writing assignments	236	28	7,171	30			
		5	All writing assignments	194	23	5,432	23			
		Total		831	100	23,591	100			
j. Addressed a real or imagined audience such as your classmates, a politician, non-experts, etc.	WRI01j	1	No writing assignments	134	16	3,358	15	2.9	2.9	-.02
		2	Few writing assignments	162	20	4,745	20			
		3	Some writing assignments	246	30	7,359	31			
		4	Most writing assignments	204	24	5,479	23			
		5	All writing assignments	83	10	2,606	11			
		Total		829	100	23,547	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	25	3	439	2	3.8	3.9 **	-.11
		2	Few writing assignments	56	7	1,303	6			
		3	Some writing assignments	192	23	4,407	19			
		4	Most writing assignments	340	40	11,035	45			
		5	All writing assignments	221	27	6,412	28			
		Total		834	100	23,596	100			
b. Explained in advance what they wanted you to learn	WRI02b	1	No writing assignments	35	4	737	4	3.7	3.7	-.05
		2	Few writing assignments	79	10	2,431	10			
		3	Some writing assignments	213	26	5,895	25			
		4	Most writing assignments	305	36	8,406	35			
		5	All writing assignments	197	24	6,091	27			
		Total		829	100	23,560	100			
c. Explained in advance the criteria they would use to grade your assignment	WRI02c	1	No writing assignments	30	4	464	2	4.0	4.1 **	-.10
		2	Few writing assignments	44	5	1,265	5			
		3	Some writing assignments	147	18	3,932	17			
		4	Most writing assignments	314	37	8,567	35			
		5	All writing assignments	297	36	9,347	40			
		Total		832	100	23,575	100			

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

NSSE 2019 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			
WRI01a	690	3.08	3.03	.040	.006	1.04	1.08	36,907	.238	.05
WRI01b	686	3.10	3.16	.040	.006	1.04	1.11	715	.094	-.06
WRI01c	689	3.00	2.99	.040	.006	1.05	1.09	36,860	.786	.01
WRI01d	687	3.40	3.32	.037	.005	0.97	0.99	36,841	.041	.08
WRI01e	687	3.61	3.61	.035	.005	0.92	0.96	715	.854	.01
WRI01f	688	2.86	2.90	.044	.006	1.17	1.18	36,722	.390	-.03
WRI01g	690	3.42	3.34	.040	.006	1.05	1.08	36,743	.065	.07
WRI01h	688	2.62	2.56	.045	.006	1.17	1.20	36,710	.218	.05
WRI01i	688	2.91	2.96	.046	.007	1.20	1.26	716	.324	-.04
WRI01j	684	3.01	2.93	.045	.006	1.18	1.20	36,687	.098	.06
WRI02a	687	3.76	3.88	.036	.005	0.95	0.94	36,718	.000	-.13
WRI02b	687	3.58	3.68	.039	.006	1.02	1.06	36,663	.010	-.10
WRI02c	684	3.87	3.98	.039	.005	1.03	1.00	708	.009	-.10

NSSE 2019 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	Writing Experiences	NSSEville State	Writing Experiences	NSSEville State	Writing Experiences			
WRI01a	833	3.09	2.97	.038	.005	1.11	1.12	48,711	.002	.11
WRI01b	832	2.95	2.84	.040	.005	1.14	1.16	48,554	.010	.09
WRI01c	834	2.80	2.63	.038	.005	1.11	1.13	864	.000	.15
WRI01d	833	3.34	3.41	.036	.005	1.04	1.05	48,584	.054	-.07
WRI01e	834	3.61	3.71	.034	.005	0.99	0.99	48,628	.002	-.11
WRI01f	834	3.08	3.09	.040	.005	1.16	1.18	48,533	.673	-.01
WRI01g	831	3.22	3.29	.039	.005	1.14	1.13	48,593	.079	-.06
WRI01h	834	2.98	2.83	.042	.005	1.21	1.16	48,515	.000	.12
WRI01i	832	3.36	3.40	.046	.006	1.32	1.28	48,532	.398	-.03
WRI01j	829	2.93	2.95	.042	.006	1.22	1.21	48,442	.613	-.02
WRI02a	835	3.81	3.91	.035	.004	1.01	0.94	860	.004	-.11
WRI02b	829	3.66	3.72	.037	.005	1.07	1.07	48,479	.145	-.05
WRI02c	833	3.96	4.06	.036	.005	1.04	1.00	48,505	.004	-.10

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.