

2019 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 2019, 46 U.S. institutions elected to append these items to the core survey. Of these, 45 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 2019 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 2019	U.S. ^b	Writing Module	NSSE 2019	U.S. ^b
	(%)	(%)	(%)	(%)	(%)	(%)
Carnegie Basic Classification^c						
Doctoral Universities – Very high research activity	4	6	7	14	20	27
Doctoral Universities - High research activity	13	10	6	32	18	14
Doctoral/Professional Universities	16	13	7	20	17	11
Master's Colleges and Universities - Larger programs	18	26	25	19	25	28
Master's Colleges and Universities - Medium programs	16	15	13	7	8	7
Master's Colleges and Universities - Smaller programs	7	6	9	2	3	3
Baccalaureate Colleges: Arts & Sciences Focus	9	12	15	3	5	4
Baccalaureate Colleges: Diverse Fields	18	12	18	3	4	5
Control						
Public	36	42	35	55	62	67
Private	64	58	65	45	38	33
Undergraduate enrollment						
Fewer than 1,000	18	12	21	3	3	2
1,000 – 2,499	31	33	32	11	14	10
2,500 – 4,999	16	21	17	9	14	11
5,000 – 9,999	11	17	14	12	20	18
10,000 – 19,999	18	10	9	35	21	23
20,000 or more	7	7	6	29	29	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 2018 IPEDS Institutional Characteristics file.

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

NSSE 2019 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	557	7	376	9	933	8	725	8	751	14	1,476	11
		Few writing assignments	1,765	21	982	23	2,747	22	1,965	21	1,348	23	3,316	22
		Some writing assignments	3,259	37	1,610	38	4,870	37	3,252	35	1,892	33	5,144	34
		Most writing assignments	2,448	27	1,063	24	3,511	26	2,548	27	1,296	23	3,847	25
		All writing assignments	685	8	270	6	955	7	733	8	394	7	1,127	8
		Total	8,714	100	4,301	100	13,016	100	9,223	100	5,681	100	14,910	100
b. Received feedback from a classmate, friend, or family member about a draft before turning in your final assignment	WRI01b	No writing assignments	593	7	339	8	932	8	1,055	12	886	17	1,942	14
		Few writing assignments	1,605	19	862	21	2,468	20	2,176	24	1,385	24	3,561	24
		Some writing assignments	2,673	30	1,443	34	4,116	32	2,999	32	1,773	31	4,775	32
		Most writing assignments	2,819	32	1,281	29	4,100	31	2,251	24	1,239	21	3,492	22
		All writing assignments	1,008	12	367	8	1,375	10	716	8	387	7	1,103	7
		Total	8,698	100	4,292	100	12,991	100	9,197	100	5,670	100	14,873	100
c. Gave feedback to a classmate about a draft or outline	WRI01c	No writing assignments	730	9	399	9	1,129	9	1,454	17	1,155	20	2,610	18
		Few writing assignments	1,818	21	934	22	2,753	21	2,219	24	1,413	24	3,635	24
		Some writing assignments	3,208	36	1,669	39	4,877	38	3,372	36	1,894	34	5,268	35
		Most writing assignments	2,367	27	1,058	24	3,425	26	1,764	19	967	17	2,731	18
		All writing assignments	597	7	227	5	824	6	399	4	250	5	649	5
		Total	8,720	100	4,287	100	13,008	100	9,208	100	5,679	100	14,893	100
d. Summarized material you read, such as articles, books, or online publications	WRI01d	No writing assignments	269	3	202	5	471	4	361	4	363	7	724	6
		Few writing assignments	1,186	14	687	17	1,873	15	1,157	13	832	14	1,989	13
		Some writing assignments	3,187	37	1,670	39	4,858	38	3,000	33	1,964	34	4,966	34
		Most writing assignments	3,179	36	1,386	32	4,565	34	3,544	38	1,903	33	5,450	36
		All writing assignments	886	10	341	7	1,227	9	1,140	12	612	11	1,753	12
		Total	8,707	100	4,286	100	12,994	100	9,202	100	5,674	100	14,882	100
e. Analyzed or evaluated something you read, researched, or observed	WRI01e	No writing assignments	149	2	93	2	242	2	224	3	216	4	440	3
		Few writing assignments	746	9	429	11	1,175	10	707	8	511	9	1,218	9
		Some writing assignments	2,498	29	1,408	33	3,907	31	2,221	25	1,486	26	3,707	25
		Most writing assignments	3,869	43	1,771	40	5,640	42	4,231	45	2,422	42	6,657	44
		All writing assignments	1,438	16	588	13	2,026	15	1,817	20	1,048	19	2,867	19
		Total	8,700	100	4,289	100	12,990	100	9,200	100	5,683	100	14,889	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	1,386	16	575	13	1,961	14	1,199	13	688	12	1,888	13
		Few writing assignments	1,874	21	939	22	2,813	21	1,731	18	1,014	17	2,745	18
		Some writing assignments	2,719	31	1,480	35	4,200	33	2,804	31	1,765	31	4,570	31
		Most writing assignments	2,076	24	1,027	25	3,103	24	2,591	28	1,628	29	4,223	28
		All writing assignments	639	8	258	6	897	7	868	10	578	11	1,446	10
		Total	8,694	100	4,279	100	12,974	100	9,193	100	5,673	100	14,872	100
g. Argued a position using evidence and reasoning	WRI01g	No writing assignments	460	6	212	5	672	6	729	9	483	10	1,214	9
		Few writing assignments	1,160	14	568	14	1,728	14	1,410	16	856	15	2,266	15
		Some writing assignments	2,781	32	1,401	33	4,183	33	2,882	31	1,760	30	4,644	31
		Most writing assignments	3,181	35	1,564	35	4,745	35	2,974	32	1,793	31	4,769	32
		All writing assignments	1,118	13	533	12	1,651	12	1,199	13	783	14	1,982	13
		Total	8,700	100	4,278	100	12,979	100	9,194	100	5,675	100	14,875	100
h. Explained in writing the meaning of numerical or statistical data	WRI01h	No writing assignments	2,242	26	675	16	2,917	22	1,723	19	680	12	2,404	16
		Few writing assignments	2,295	26	1,069	24	3,364	25	2,273	24	1,107	19	3,381	22
		Some writing assignments	2,346	27	1,418	33	3,765	29	2,719	29	1,862	32	4,584	31
		Most writing assignments	1,391	16	864	21	2,255	18	1,890	21	1,501	27	3,392	24
		All writing assignments	406	5	253	6	659	5	586	6	518	9	1,104	8
		Total	8,680	100	4,279	100	12,960	100	9,191	100	5,668	100	14,865	100

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

NSSE 2019 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	1,403	16	564	13	1,967	15	1,051	12	574	10	1,625	11
		Few writing assignments	1,706	20	846	19	2,552	20	1,241	14	723	12	1,965	13
		Some writing assignments	2,447	28	1,348	31	3,796	29	1,969	22	1,381	24	3,351	23
		Most writing assignments	2,187	25	1,105	26	3,292	25	2,851	30	1,833	32	4,686	31
		All writing assignments	942	11	425	10	1,367	11	2,076	22	1,157	20	3,235	21
		Total	8,685	100	4,288	100	12,974	100	9,188	100	5,668	100	14,862	100
j. Addressed a real or imagined audience such as your classmates, a politician, non-experts, etc.	WRI01j	No writing assignments	1,335	16	487	12	1,822	14	1,382	16	798	15	2,180	15
		Few writing assignments	1,754	20	821	20	2,575	20	1,935	21	1,092	19	3,028	20
		Some writing assignments	2,702	31	1,427	34	4,130	32	2,758	30	1,775	31	4,537	31
		Most writing assignments	2,095	23	1,106	25	3,201	24	2,129	23	1,351	23	3,481	23
		All writing assignments	794	9	430	10	1,224	9	973	10	652	11	1,625	10
		Total	8,680	100	4,271	100	12,952	100	9,177	100	5,668	100	14,851	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	134	2	68	2	202	2	151	2	147	3	298	2
		Few writing assignments	507	6	302	8	809	7	479	6	358	7	837	6
		Some writing assignments	1,883	22	912	22	2,796	22	1,778	20	1,132	20	2,910	20
		Most writing assignments	4,157	47	1,977	45	6,134	46	4,488	48	2,569	44	7,061	46
		All writing assignments	1,998	24	1,021	23	3,019	23	2,295	25	1,457	26	3,754	25
		Total	8,679	100	4,280	100	12,960	100	9,191	100	5,663	100	14,860	100
b. Explained in advance what they wanted you to learn	WRI02b	No writing assignments	241	3	138	3	379	3	259	3	229	5	488	4
		Few writing assignments	1,047	12	464	11	1,511	11	975	11	659	12	1,634	11
		Some writing assignments	2,450	28	1,270	30	3,721	29	2,435	26	1,516	27	3,952	27
		Most writing assignments	3,183	36	1,580	36	4,763	36	3,394	36	2,005	35	5,401	36
		All writing assignments	1,739	21	820	20	2,559	20	2,119	24	1,253	22	3,375	23
		Total	8,660	100	4,272	100	12,933	100	9,182	100	5,662	100	14,850	100
c. Explained in advance the criteria they would use to grade your assignment	WRI02c	No writing assignments	146	2	86	2	232	2	166	2	165	4	331	3
		Few writing assignments	563	7	267	7	830	7	485	5	352	6	837	6
		Some writing assignments	1,758	20	962	23	2,721	21	1,611	18	1,020	19	2,631	18
		Most writing assignments	3,424	39	1,624	37	5,048	38	3,584	39	2,102	36	5,689	38
		All writing assignments	2,779	33	1,328	31	4,107	32	3,334	37	2,024	35	5,361	36
		Total	8,670	100	4,267	100	12,938	100	9,180	100	5,663	100	14,849	100

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

NSSE 2019 Topical Modules

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

Experiences with Writing

First-Year Students

Seniors

Item wording or description	Variable name	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	3.09	1.03	2.95	1.03	3.03	1.04	3.05	1.07	2.86	1.13	2.96	1.10
b. Received feedback from a classmate, friend, or family member about a draft before turning in your final assignment	WRI01b	3.22	1.10	3.08	1.07	3.16	1.09	2.91	1.13	2.78	1.16	2.85	1.14
c. Gave feedback to a classmate about a draft or outline	WRI01c	3.02	1.06	2.94	1.02	2.99	1.04	2.71	1.09	2.61	1.13	2.66	1.11
d. Summarized material you read, such as articles, books, or online publications	WRI01d	3.36	.96	3.20	.97	3.29	.97	3.42	1.00	3.26	1.06	3.35	1.03
e. Analyzed or evaluated something you read, researched, or observed	WRI01e	3.63	.93	3.51	.94	3.58	.93	3.71	.95	3.60	1.03	3.66	.99
f. Described your methods or findings related to data you collected in lab or field work, a survey project, etc.	WRI01f	2.87	1.17	2.90	1.09	2.88	1.14	3.03	1.17	3.08	1.17	3.05	1.17
g. Argued a position using evidence and reasoning	WRI01g	3.35	1.05	3.34	1.03	3.35	1.04	3.25	1.12	3.24	1.16	3.24	1.14
h. Explained in writing the meaning of numerical or statistical data	WRI01h	2.49	1.18	2.76	1.13	2.60	1.17	2.71	1.18	3.01	1.15	2.85	1.17
i. Wrote in the style and format of a specific field (engineering, history, psychology, etc.)	WRI01i	2.95	1.24	3.00	1.18	2.97	1.22	3.37	1.29	3.40	1.24	3.38	1.27
j. Addressed a real or imagined audience such as your classmates, a politician, non-experts, etc.	WRI01j	2.89	1.20	3.00	1.14	2.94	1.18	2.90	1.21	2.96	1.21	2.93	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	3.84	.91	3.80	.94	3.83	.92	3.89	.90	3.83	.99	3.86	.94
b. Explained in advance what they wanted you to learn	WRI02b	3.60	1.04	3.58	1.03	3.59	1.04	3.67	1.04	3.58	1.09	3.63	1.07
c. Explained in advance the criteria they would use to grade your assignment	WRI02c	3.94	.98	3.88	1.00	3.91	.99	4.02	.97	3.93	1.05	3.98	1.01

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