



NSSE 2013

Experiences with Writing Module

University of West Georgia

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Experiences with Writing Module

This module is the result of an ongoing collaboration between NSSE and the Council of Writing Program Administrators. The questions touch on three content areas: interactive writing processes, meaning-making writing tasks, and clarity of writing expectations.

Experiences with Writing Comparison Group

This section summarizes how your Experiences with Writing 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	Not applicable; comparison group not customized.
How was this comparison group constructed?	Your institution did not customize this comparison group; the default group (all module participants) was used.
Group description	Default comparison group

'Writing Experiences' institutions (N=114)

Acadia University (Wolfville, NS)	Franklin College (Franklin, IN)
Adventist University of Health Sciences (Orlando, FL)	Fresno Pacific University (Fresno, CA)
Alabama State University (Montgomery, AL)	Golden Gate University-San Francisco (San Francisco, CA)
Augsburg College (Minneapolis, MN)	Harvey Mudd College (Claremont, CA)
Barton College (Wilson, NC)	Houston Baptist University (Houston, TX)
Belmont Abbey College (Belmont, NC)	Humboldt State University (Arcata, CA)
Biola University (La Mirada, CA)	Huron University College (London, ON)
Bowling Green State University (Bowling Green, OH)	Indiana State University (Terre Haute, IN)
Brigham Young University (Provo, UT)	Kaplan University (Davenport, IA)
Bryn Athyn College of the New Church (Bryn Athyn, PA)	Kean University (Union, NJ)
Buena Vista University (Storm Lake, IA)	King's University College at the University of Western Ontario (London, ON)
Butler University (Indianapolis, IN)	Lawrence University (Appleton, WI)
Capella University (Minneapolis, MN)	Lees-McRae College (Banner Elk, NC)
Catholic University of America, The (Washington, DC)	Lindsey Wilson College (Columbia, KY)
Chadron State College (Chadron, NE)	Lubbock Christian University (Lubbock, TX)
Chatham University (Pittsburgh, PA)	Mars Hill University (Mars Hill, NC)
Clarkson University (Potsdam, NY)	Marygrove College (Detroit, MI)
Colorado College (Colorado Springs, CO)	Metropolitan State University of Denver (Denver, CO)
Colorado Mesa University (Grand Junction, CO)	Miami University-Oxford (Oxford, OH)
Columbia College (Columbia, SC)	Mississippi State University (Mississippi State, MS)
Concordia University (Montreal, QC)	Mount Olive College (Mount Olive, NC)
Coppin State University (Baltimore, MD)	Mount Royal University (Calgary, AB)
CUNY Herbert H. Lehman College (Bronx, NY)	Mount St. Mary's University (Emmitsburg, MD)
Drake University (Des Moines, IA)	New College of Florida (Sarasota, FL)
Eastern Illinois University (Charleston, IL)	New Mexico Institute of Mining and Technology (Socorro, NM)
Elmhurst College (Elmhurst, IL)	North Dakota State University (Fargo, ND)
Elon University (Elon, NC)	Northeastern University (Boston, MA)
Florida Gulf Coast University (Fort Myers, FL)	Northwest University (Kirkland, WA)
Florida Southern College (Lakeland, FL)	Oakland University (Rochester Hills, MI)
Francis Marion University (Florence, SC)	Ohio Wesleyan University (Delaware, OH)

'Writing Experiences' institutions (N=114), continued

Oral Roberts University (Tulsa, OK)
Pittsburg State University (Pittsburg, KS)
Quest University Canada (Squamish, BC)
Regent University (Virginia Beach, VA)
Rivier University (Nashua, NH)
Roanoke College (Salem, VA)
Rocky Mountain College (Billings, MT)
Roger Williams University (Bristol, RI)
Saint John Fisher College (Rochester, NY)
Saint Michael's College (Colchester, VT)
Saint Thomas University (Miami Gardens, FL)
Seton Hall University (South Orange, NJ)
Shepherd University (Shepherdstown, WV)
Sheridan College Institute of Technology and Advanced Learning (Oakville, ON)
Simmons College (Boston, MA)
Simon Fraser University (Burnaby, BC)
Southern Utah University (Cedar City, UT)
Spring Hill College (Mobile, AL)
St. Francis Xavier University (Antigonish, NS)
St. Mary's College of Maryland (Saint Mary's City, MD)
St. Mary's University (San Antonio, TX)
State University of New York at Potsdam, The (Potsdam, NY)
Tarleton State University (Stephenville, TX)
Tennessee State University (Nashville, TN)
Texas A&M International University (Laredo, TX)
Texas A&M University - Kingsville (Kingsville, TX)
University of Colorado Boulder (Boulder, CO)
University of Dallas (Irving, TX)
University of Houston-Downtown (Houston, TX)
University of Mississippi (University, MS)
University of Mount Union (Alliance, OH)
University of Nevada, Reno (Reno, NV)
University of New England (Biddeford, ME)
University of North Dakota (Grand Forks, ND)
University of Northern British Columbia (Prince George, BC)
University of St. Francis (Joliet, IL)
University of St. Thomas (Houston, TX)
University of Texas at Brownsville, The (Brownsville, TX)
University of Texas of the Permian Basin, The (Odessa, TX)
University of the Cumberlands (Williamsburg, KY)
University of the Fraser Valley (Abbotsford, BC)
University of Tulsa (Tulsa, OK)
University of Wisconsin-Platteville (Platteville, WI)
University of Wisconsin-Whitewater (Whitewater, WI)
Utah Valley University (Orem, UT)
Valparaiso University (Valparaiso, IN)
Vaughn College of Aeronautics and Technology (Flushing, NY)
Virginia Wesleyan College (Norfolk, VA)
West Virginia University (Morgantown, WV)
Westminster College (Salt Lake City, UT)
Wheaton College (Norton, MA)
Wichita State University (Wichita, KS)
Winston-Salem State University (Winston-Salem, NC)
York College of Pennsylvania (York, PA)

First-Year Students

Item wording or description	Variable name	Values ^c	Response options	Frequency Distributions ^a				Statistical Comparisons ^b		
				UWG		Writing Experiences		UWG	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	29	14	2,885	13	3.1	3.0	.09
		2	Few writing assignments	41	20	5,407	21			
		3	Some writing assignments	51	25	7,980	31			
		4	Most writing assignments	55	26	6,560	24			
		5	All writing assignments	34	15	2,640	11			
		Total		210	100	25,472	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	17	9	2,701	12	3.4	3.2 *	.14
		2	Few writing assignments	36	17	4,292	17			
		3	Some writing assignments	47	23	7,042	27			
		4	Most writing assignments	62	30	7,696	29			
		5	All writing assignments	44	21	3,709	15			
		Total		206	100	25,440	100			
c. Gave feedback to a classmate about a draft or outline he or she had written	WRI01c	1	No writing assignments	20	9	3,027	13	3.3	3.0 **	.22
		2	Few writing assignments	29	13	4,933	19			
		3	Some writing assignments	71	36	8,580	33			
		4	Most writing assignments	55	25	6,544	26			
		5	All writing assignments	34	17	2,303	10			
		Total		209	100	25,387	100			
d. Summarized material you read, such as articles, books, or online publications	WRI01d	1	No writing assignments	15	6	1,430	6	3.4	3.3	.08
		2	Few writing assignments	37	17	3,740	15			
		3	Some writing assignments	46	23	8,450	33			
		4	Most writing assignments	70	36	8,433	33			
		5	All writing assignments	38	18	3,346	14			
		Total		206	100	25,399	100			
e. Analyzed or evaluated something you read, researched, or observed	WRI01e	1	No writing assignments	4	2	885	4	3.9	3.6 ***	.26
		2	Few writing assignments	24	11	2,347	10			
		3	Some writing assignments	30	15	6,733	27			
		4	Most writing assignments	84	41	10,382	40			
		5	All writing assignments	67	31	5,042	20			
		Total		209	100	25,389	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	54	24	5,378	20	2.8	2.8	-.01
		2	Few writing assignments	43	20	5,223	20			
		3	Some writing assignments	42	21	7,133	28			
		4	Most writing assignments	46	23	5,505	22			
		5	All writing assignments	24	12	2,128	9			
		Total		209	100	25,367	100			
g. Argued a position using evidence and reasoning	WRI01g	1	No writing assignments	17	9	1,827	8	3.6	3.4 **	.21
		2	Few writing assignments	26	11	3,126	13			
		3	Some writing assignments	40	19	7,006	28			
		4	Most writing assignments	63	29	8,946	34			
		5	All writing assignments	62	32	4,459	17			
		Total		208	100	25,364	100			

*p<.05, **p<.01, ***p<.001 (2-tailed)

First-Year Students

Item wording or description	Variable name	Values ^c	Response options	Frequency Distributions ^a				Statistical Comparisons ^b		
				UWG		Writing Experiences		UWG	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	100	46	7,662	30	2.2	2.5 *	-.17
		2	Few writing assignments	37	17	6,084	23			
		3	Some writing assignments	26	14	6,053	24			
		4	Most writing assignments	27	14	3,811	15			
		5	All writing assignments	18	10	1,506	7			
		Total	208	100	25,116	100				
i. Wrote in the style and format of a specific field (engineering, history, psychology, etc.)	WRI01i	1	No writing assignments	49	23	4,815	19	2.9	3.0	.00
		2	Few writing assignments	43	20	4,626	18			
		3	Some writing assignments	34	17	6,319	25			
		4	Most writing assignments	39	18	5,933	23			
		5	All writing assignments	42	22	3,655	15			
		Total	207	100	25,348	100				
j. Addressed a real or imagined audience such as your classmates, a politician, non-experts, etc.	WRI01j	1	No writing assignments	52	24	4,653	19	2.9	2.9	.01
		2	Few writing assignments	32	15	4,734	19			
		3	Some writing assignments	45	22	6,946	27			
		4	Most writing assignments	42	20	5,595	22			
		5	All writing assignments	36	19	3,384	14			
		Total	207	100	25,312	100				
2. During the current school year, for how many of your writing assignments has your instructor done the following?										
a. Provided clear instructions describing what he or she wanted you to do	WRI02a	1	No writing assignments	5	2	481	2	4.2	4.1	.12
		2	Few writing assignments	12	7	1,113	5			
		3	Some writing assignments	31	15	3,643	14			
		4	Most writing assignments	56	26	11,643	43			
		5	All writing assignments	105	51	8,594	36			
		Total	209	100	25,474	100				
b. Explained in advance what he or she wanted you to learn	WRI02b	1	No writing assignments	6	3	924	4	4.0	3.8 ***	.25
		2	Few writing assignments	17	8	2,509	9			
		3	Some writing assignments	40	18	6,104	23			
		4	Most writing assignments	49	24	8,857	33			
		5	All writing assignments	96	47	7,024	30			
		Total	208	100	25,418	100				
c. Explained in advance the criteria he or she would use to grade your assignment	WRI02c	1	No writing assignments	4	2	697	3	4.3	4.0 ***	.32
		2	Few writing assignments	8	4	1,699	7			
		3	Some writing assignments	33	14	4,454	17			
		4	Most writing assignments	42	19	9,002	34			
		5	All writing assignments	120	61	9,559	39			
		Total	207	100	25,411	100				

*p<.05, **p<.01, ***p<.001 (2-tailed)

Seniors

Item wording or description	Variable name	Values ^c	Response options	Frequency Distributions ^a				Statistical Comparisons ^b		
				UWG		Writing Experiences		UWG	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	26	13	5,046	15	3.0	2.8 *	.18
		2	Few writing assignments	40	20	8,376	23			
		3	Some writing assignments	56	29	11,443	31			
		4	Most writing assignments	46	23	8,358	22			
		5	All writing assignments	29	14	2,890	8			
		Total		197	100	36,113	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	34	18	6,146	18	3.0	2.8 *	.16
		2	Few writing assignments	40	20	8,307	23			
		3	Some writing assignments	49	25	10,470	29			
		4	Most writing assignments	39	20	7,950	21			
		5	All writing assignments	34	17	3,173	9			
		Total		196	100	36,046	100			
c. Gave feedback to a classmate about a draft or outline he or she had written	WRI01c	1	No writing assignments	34	18	7,279	22	2.9	2.6 ***	.26
		2	Few writing assignments	39	20	9,313	26			
		3	Some writing assignments	60	31	11,804	32			
		4	Most writing assignments	43	22	5,876	16			
		5	All writing assignments	19	10	1,658	5			
		Total		195	100	35,930	100			
d. Summarized material you read, such as articles, books, or online publications	WRI01d	1	No writing assignments	17	9	2,453	8	3.4	3.3	.07
		2	Few writing assignments	22	11	5,064	14			
		3	Some writing assignments	52	27	11,345	31			
		4	Most writing assignments	70	35	11,878	32			
		5	All writing assignments	34	17	5,213	15			
		Total		195	100	35,953	100			
e. Analyzed or evaluated something you read, researched, or observed	WRI01e	1	No writing assignments	12	6	1,570	5	3.9	3.7 **	.21
		2	Few writing assignments	11	6	2,993	9			
		3	Some writing assignments	28	15	8,583	24			
		4	Most writing assignments	76	39	14,683	40			
		5	All writing assignments	67	34	8,136	23			
		Total		194	100	35,965	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	40	20	6,466	18	2.9	2.9	.01
		2	Few writing assignments	34	18	6,710	18			
		3	Some writing assignments	50	25	9,993	27			
		4	Most writing assignments	40	20	8,886	25			
		5	All writing assignments	31	16	3,890	11			
		Total		195	100	35,945	100			
g. Argued a position using evidence and reasoning	WRI01g	1	No writing assignments	30	15	3,759	11	3.4	3.3	.11
		2	Few writing assignments	18	9	5,077	14			
		3	Some writing assignments	40	20	9,764	27			
		4	Most writing assignments	55	28	11,129	30			
		5	All writing assignments	51	27	6,204	17			
		Total		194	100	35,933	100			

*p<.05, **p<.01, ***p<.001 (2-tailed)

Seniors

Item wording or description	Variable name	Values ^c	Response options	Frequency Distributions ^a				Statistical Comparisons ^b		
				UWG		Writing Experiences		UWG	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	63	33	8,314	23	2.5	2.7 *	.16
		2	Few writing assignments	45	23	8,187	22			
		3	Some writing assignments	36	19	9,332	26			
		4	Most writing assignments	30	16	6,963	20			
		5	All writing assignments	19	10	2,843	9			
		Total		193	100	35,639	100			
i. Wrote in the style and format of a specific field (engineering, history, psychology, etc.)	WRI01i	1	No writing assignments	26	13	4,630	14	3.6	3.4 *	.14
		2	Few writing assignments	12	6	4,460	12			
		3	Some writing assignments	37	19	6,911	19			
		4	Most writing assignments	56	29	10,188	28			
		5	All writing assignments	62	32	9,699	27			
		Total		193	100	35,888	100			
j. Addressed a real or imagined audience such as your classmates, a politician, non-experts, etc.	WRI01j	1	No writing assignments	31	16	6,661	20	3.1	2.9	.13
		2	Few writing assignments	30	16	6,780	19			
		3	Some writing assignments	59	31	9,863	27			
		4	Most writing assignments	43	22	7,806	21			
		5	All writing assignments	31	16	4,780	13			
		Total		194	100	35,890	100			
2. During the current school year, for how many of your writing assignments has your instructor done the following?										
a. Provided clear instructions describing what he or she wanted you to do	WRI02a	1	No writing assignments	7	4	918	3	4.1	4.0	.12
		2	Few writing assignments	5	2	1,663	5			
		3	Some writing assignments	29	14	5,296	15			
		4	Most writing assignments	78	39	17,009	45			
		5	All writing assignments	79	41	11,191	32			
		Total		198	100	36,077	100			
b. Explained in advance what he or she wanted you to learn	WRI02b	1	No writing assignments	10	5	1,638	5	3.8	3.7	.11
		2	Few writing assignments	15	8	3,729	10			
		3	Some writing assignments	50	24	8,675	24			
		4	Most writing assignments	55	28	12,609	34			
		5	All writing assignments	68	35	9,384	27			
		Total		198	100	36,035	100			
c. Explained in advance the criteria he or she would use to grade your assignment	WRI02c	1	No writing assignments	8	4	1,195	4	4.2	4.0 **	.19
		2	Few writing assignments	6	3	2,289	7			
		3	Some writing assignments	28	14	6,130	17			
		4	Most writing assignments	60	30	13,510	36			
		5	All writing assignments	95	49	12,856	37			
		Total		197	100	35,980	100			

*p<.05, **p<.01, ***p<.001 (2-tailed)

First-Year Students

Variable name	N	Mean		Standard error ^f		Standard deviation ^g		DF ^h	Sig. ⁱ	Effect size ^d
	UWG	UWG	Writing Experiences	UWG	Writing Experiences	UWG	Writing Experiences	Comparisons with: Writing Experiences		
WRI01a	210	3.1	3.0	.09	.01	1.3	1.2	217	.239	.09
WRI01b	206	3.4	3.2	.09	.01	1.2	1.2	10,302	.046	.14
WRI01c	210	3.3	3.0	.08	.01	1.2	1.2	10,279	.002	.22
WRI01d	206	3.4	3.3	.08	.01	1.2	1.1	213	.294	.08
WRI01e	210	3.9	3.6	.07	.01	1.0	1.0	10,283	.000	.26
WRI01f	210	2.8	2.8	.09	.01	1.3	1.3	216	.904	-.01
WRI01g	208	3.6	3.4	.09	.01	1.3	1.1	214	.006	.21
WRI01h	209	2.2	2.5	.10	.01	1.4	1.3	215	.034	-.17
WRI01i	208	2.9	3.0	.10	.01	1.5	1.3	214	.991	.00
WRI01j	208	2.9	2.9	.10	.01	1.4	1.3	214	.878	.01
WRI02a	210	4.2	4.1	.07	.01	1.0	0.9	216	.111	.12
WRI02b	209	4.0	3.8	.08	.01	1.1	1.1	10,291	.000	.25
WRI02c	208	4.3	4.0	.07	.01	1.0	1.1	10,286	.000	.32

*p<.05, **p<.01, ***p<.001 (2-tailed)

Seniors

Variable name	N	Mean		Standard error ^f		Standard deviation ^g		DF ^h	Sig. ⁱ	Effect size ^d
	UWG	UWG	Writing Experiences	UWG	Writing Experiences	UWG	Writing Experiences	Comparisons with: Writing Experiences		
WRI01a	197	3.0	2.8	.09	.01	1.2	1.2	21,277	.013	.18
WRI01b	197	3.0	2.8	.10	.01	1.3	1.2	21,235	.028	.16
WRI01c	195	2.9	2.6	.09	.01	1.2	1.1	21,162	.000	.26
WRI01d	195	3.4	3.3	.08	.01	1.2	1.1	21,173	.299	.07
WRI01e	195	3.9	3.7	.08	.01	1.1	1.1	21,186	.003	.21
WRI01f	196	2.9	2.9	.10	.01	1.4	1.3	21,174	.893	.01
WRI01g	195	3.4	3.3	.10	.01	1.4	1.2	197	.166	.11
WRI01h	193	2.5	2.7	.10	.01	1.3	1.3	20,990	.023	-.16
WRI01i	193	3.6	3.4	.10	.01	1.3	1.4	21,129	.048	.14
WRI01j	193	3.1	2.9	.09	.01	1.3	1.3	21,138	.071	.13
WRI02a	198	4.1	4.0	.07	.01	1.0	1.0	21,251	.086	.12
WRI02b	198	3.8	3.7	.08	.01	1.2	1.1	21,226	.131	.11
WRI02c	197	4.2	4.0	.08	.01	1.1	1.1	21,184	.007	.19

*p<.05, **p<.01, ***p<.001 (2-tailed)

Endnotes

- a. Column percentages are weighted by gender 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 gender 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*.
- e. Statistics are weighted by gender 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 Ns due to weighting and whether equal variances were assumed.
- i. Statistical comparisons are two-tailed independent t-tests. Statistical significance represents the probability that the difference between your students' mean and that of the comparison group is due to chance.