
NSSE 2022 Topical Module Report

Experiences with Writing

Regent University

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.

Comparison group details are in the online Selected Comparison Groups report, linked in the Data & Reports table on the Institution Interface. A PDF copy is also saved in your report download folder.

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First-Year Students

Item wording or description	Variable name	Values ^c	Response options	Frequency Distributions ^a				Statistical Comparisons ^b		
				Regent		Writing Experiences		Regent	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	53	26	769	12	2.6	2.8 **	-.25
		2	Few writing assignments	50	23	1,629	25			
		3	Some writing assignments	55	27	2,376	35			
		4	Most writing assignments	32	15	1,538	21			
		5	All writing assignments	19	9	439	6			
		Total		209	100	6,751	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	52	26	753	12	2.7	3.0 ***	-.29
		2	Few writing assignments	49	23	1,429	22			
		3	Some writing assignments	44	20	2,146	32			
		4	Most writing assignments	43	20	1,759	26			
		5	All writing assignments	20	10	627	9			
		Total		208	100	6,714	100			
c. Given feedback to a classmate about a draft or outline	WRI01c	1	No writing assignments	102	52	947	14	2.0	2.9 ***	-.79
		2	Few writing assignments	37	16	1,494	22			
		3	Some writing assignments	44	21	2,303	34			
		4	Most writing assignments	15	6	1,537	22			
		5	All writing assignments	9	5	463	7			
		Total		207	100	6,744	100			
d. Summarized material you read such as articles, books, or online publications	WRI01d	1	No writing assignments	17	10	400	6	3.2	3.2	.00
		2	Few writing assignments	29	15	1,076	17			
		3	Some writing assignments	73	35	2,379	35			
		4	Most writing assignments	58	26	2,237	32			
		5	All writing assignments	30	15	636	9			
		Total		207	100	6,728	100			
e. Analyzed or evaluated something you read, researched, or observed	WRI01e	1	No writing assignments	10	5	248	4	3.6	3.5	.10
		2	Few writing assignments	20	9	713	11			
		3	Some writing assignments	49	24	1,968	29			
		4	Most writing assignments	90	42	2,797	41			
		5	All writing assignments	39	19	1,000	15			
		Total		208	100	6,726	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	63	31	1,140	16	2.5	2.9 ***	-.29
		2	Few writing assignments	44	20	1,340	20			
		3	Some writing assignments	41	21	2,102	31			
		4	Most writing assignments	39	19	1,649	26			
		5	All writing assignments	19	9	476	7			
		Total		206	100	6,707	100			
g. Argued a position using evidence and reasoning	WRI01g	1	No writing assignments	22	12	548	9	3.2	3.3	-.08
		2	Few writing assignments	30	15	930	14			
		3	Some writing assignments	64	30	2,108	31			
		4	Most writing assignments	63	30	2,265	33			
		5	All writing assignments	27	13	858	12			
		Total		206	100	6,709	100			

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

First-Year Students

Item wording or description	Variable name	Values ^c	Response options	Frequency Distributions ^a				Statistical Comparisons ^b		
				Regent		Writing Experiences		Regent	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	95	48	1,564	22	1.9	2.6 ***	▼ -.59
		2	Few writing assignments	54	26	1,659	25			
		3	Some writing assignments	37	17	1,941	30			
		4	Most writing assignments	10	4	1,161	18			
		5	All writing assignments	10	5	379	6			
		Total		206	100	6,704	100			
i. Written in the style and format of a specific field (engineering, history, psychology, etc.)	WRI01i	1	No writing assignments	42	22	1,235	19	3.0	2.9	.09
		2	Few writing assignments	36	20	1,301	19			
		3	Some writing assignments	40	19	1,923	29			
		4	Most writing assignments	45	20	1,570	23			
		5	All writing assignments	44	20	674	10			
		Total		207	100	6,703	100			
j. Addressed a real or imagined audience such as your classmates, a politician, non-experts, etc.	WRI01j	1	No writing assignments	68	37	1,172	18	2.3	2.8 ***	▼ -.41
		2	Few writing assignments	43	21	1,381	20			
		3	Some writing assignments	48	21	2,072	31			
		4	Most writing assignments	28	13	1,472	22			
		5	All writing assignments	18	8	600	9			
		Total		205	100	6,697	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	7	3	169	3	4.1	3.8 ***	▲ .31
		2	Few writing assignments	9	5	487	8			
		3	Some writing assignments	25	11	1,485	22			
		4	Most writing assignments	79	37	2,753	40			
		5	All writing assignments	87	44	1,805	27			
		Total		207	100	6,699	100			
b. Explained in advance what they wanted you to learn	WRI02b	1	No writing assignments	6	3	247	4	4.1	3.6 ***	▲ .42
		2	Few writing assignments	12	6	726	11			
		3	Some writing assignments	33	15	1,826	27			
		4	Most writing assignments	60	28	2,299	33			
		5	All writing assignments	93	47	1,602	25			
		Total		204	100	6,700	100			
c. Explained in advance the criteria they would use to grade your assignment	WRI02c	1	No writing assignments	4	2	188	3	4.4	3.9 ***	▲ .47
		2	Few writing assignments	6	3	492	7			
		3	Some writing assignments	24	12	1,423	21			
		4	Most writing assignments	48	22	2,360	34			
		5	All writing assignments	122	62	2,242	34			
		Total		204	100	6,705	100			

Seniors

Item wording or description	Variable name	Values ^c	Response options	Frequency Distributions ^a				Statistical Comparisons ^b		
				Regent		Writing Experiences		Regent	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	56	20	1,088	14	2.6	2.8 **	-.17
		2	Few writing assignments	80	28	1,980	24			
		3	Some writing assignments	81	28	2,917	34			
		4	Most writing assignments	46	16	1,823	21			
		5	All writing assignments	23	8	622	7			
		Total		286	100	8,430	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	65	23	1,346	17	2.5	2.8 ***	-.23
		2	Few writing assignments	83	29	2,027	25			
		3	Some writing assignments	80	28	2,606	31			
		4	Most writing assignments	38	13	1,798	21			
		5	All writing assignments	17	6	623	7			
		Total		283	100	8,400	100			
c. Given feedback to a classmate about a draft or outline	WRI01c	1	No writing assignments	128	45	1,633	20	2.0	2.6 ***	-.54
		2	Few writing assignments	67	23	2,080	25			
		3	Some writing assignments	60	21	2,789	33			
		4	Most writing assignments	20	7	1,479	17			
		5	All writing assignments	10	4	464	5			
		Total		285	100	8,445	100			
d. Summarized material you read such as articles, books, or online publications	WRI01d	1	No writing assignments	9	3	537	7	3.6	3.3 ***	.21
		2	Few writing assignments	34	12	1,159	14			
		3	Some writing assignments	84	30	2,701	32			
		4	Most writing assignments	102	36	2,885	34			
		5	All writing assignments	52	19	1,140	13			
		Total		281	100	8,422	100			
e. Analyzed or evaluated something you read, researched, or observed	WRI01e	1	No writing assignments	5	2	331	4	4.0	3.6 ***	.31
		2	Few writing assignments	13	5	769	9			
		3	Some writing assignments	54	19	2,146	25			
		4	Most writing assignments	131	46	3,506	42			
		5	All writing assignments	82	29	1,674	20			
		Total		285	100	8,426	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	53	19	1,114	13	3.0	3.1	-.11
		2	Few writing assignments	60	20	1,519	18			
		3	Some writing assignments	65	23	2,408	29			
		4	Most writing assignments	61	22	2,425	29			
		5	All writing assignments	44	16	939	11			
		Total		283	100	8,405	100			
g. Argued a position using evidence and reasoning	WRI01g	1	No writing assignments	22	8	892	10	3.5	3.2 ***	.25
		2	Few writing assignments	28	10	1,297	15			
		3	Some writing assignments	76	26	2,477	30			
		4	Most writing assignments	96	34	2,618	31			
		5	All writing assignments	61	22	1,125	14			
		Total		283	100	8,409	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		
				Regent		Writing Experiences		Regent	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	84	30	1,397	15	2.4	2.9 ***	-0.44 ▼
		2	Few writing assignments	72	25	1,817	21			
		3	Some writing assignments	80	28	2,549	31			
		4	Most writing assignments	31	11	1,921	24			
		5	All writing assignments	17	6	720	9			
		Total		284	100	8,404	100			
i. Written in the style and format of a specific field (engineering, history, psychology, etc.)	WRI01i	1	No writing assignments	33	12	1,033	12	3.8	3.4 ***	.33 ▲
		2	Few writing assignments	20	7	1,119	13			
		3	Some writing assignments	44	15	1,956	23			
		4	Most writing assignments	68	25	2,480	30			
		5	All writing assignments	118	42	1,813	21			
		Total		283	100	8,401	100			
j. Addressed a real or imagined audience such as your classmates, a politician, non-experts, etc.	WRI01j	1	No writing assignments	57	20	1,478	17	2.9	2.9	.04
		2	Few writing assignments	50	17	1,774	21			
		3	Some writing assignments	86	30	2,471	29			
		4	Most writing assignments	45	16	1,814	21			
		5	All writing assignments	46	16	860	11			
		Total		284	100	8,397	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	8	3	238	3	4.3	3.9 ***	.38 ▲
		2	Few writing assignments	8	3	560	7			
		3	Some writing assignments	24	9	1,591	19			
		4	Most writing assignments	110	38	3,596	43			
		5	All writing assignments	132	48	2,420	29			
		Total		282	100	8,405	100			
b. Explained in advance what they wanted you to learn	WRI02b	1	No writing assignments	9	3	347	4	4.2	3.7 ***	.45 ▲
		2	Few writing assignments	10	3	814	10			
		3	Some writing assignments	38	13	1,995	24			
		4	Most writing assignments	92	32	2,996	36			
		5	All writing assignments	135	48	2,245	26			
		Total		284	100	8,397	100			
c. Explained in advance the criteria they would use to grade your assignment	WRI02c	1	No writing assignments	9	3	264	3	4.4	4.0 ***	.46 ▲
		2	Few writing assignments	4	1	513	6			
		3	Some writing assignments	19	7	1,571	19			
		4	Most writing assignments	75	26	3,015	36			
		5	All writing assignments	177	63	3,038	36			
		Total		284	100	8,401	100			

First-Year Students

Variable name	N	Mean		Standard error ^f		Standard deviation ^g		DF ^h	Sig. ⁱ	Effect size ^d
	Regent	Regent	Writing Experiences	Regent	Writing Experiences	Regent	Writing Experiences	Comparisons with: Writing Experiences		
WRI01a	212	2.58	2.85	.087	.012	1.27	1.09	219	.002	-.25
WRI01b	211	2.67	2.99	.092	.013	1.33	1.14	218	.000	-.29
WRI01c	210	1.96	2.85	.082	.013	1.19	1.13	8,021	.000	-.79
WRI01d	210	3.22	3.22	.080	.012	1.16	1.04	218	.981	.00
WRI01e	211	3.60	3.50	.073	.011	1.06	1.01	7,996	.150	.10
WRI01f	209	2.53	2.87	.092	.013	1.33	1.17	217	.000	-.29
WRI01g	209	3.17	3.26	.083	.013	1.20	1.12	7,975	.246	-.08
WRI01h	209	1.92	2.62	.077	.013	1.12	1.17	220	.000	-.59
WRI01i	210	2.98	2.86	.099	.014	1.44	1.24	217	.241	.09
WRI01j	208	2.35	2.84	.091	.014	1.31	1.21	217	.000	-.41
WRI02a	210	4.13	3.82	.070	.011	1.02	1.01	7,967	.000	.31
WRI02b	206	4.10	3.64	.074	.012	1.07	1.09	7,958	.000	.42
WRI02c	207	4.39	3.90	.065	.012	0.93	1.06	7,969	.000	.47




Seniors

Variable name	N	Mean		Standard error ^f		Standard deviation ^g		DF ^h	Sig. ⁱ	Effect size ^d
	Regent	Regent	Writing Experiences	Regent	Writing Experiences	Regent	Writing Experiences	Comparisons with: Writing Experiences		
WRI01a	287	2.63	2.83	.071	.011	1.20	1.13	299	.007	-.17
WRI01b	284	2.50	2.77	.069	.011	1.16	1.16	11,395	.000	-.23
WRI01c	285	2.01	2.62	.067	.011	1.14	1.14	11,453	.000	-.54
WRI01d	281	3.55	3.33	.061	.010	1.02	1.08	11,418	.001	.21
WRI01e	285	3.96	3.64	.054	.010	0.91	1.03	303	.000	.31
WRI01f	283	2.95	3.08	.080	.011	1.35	1.20	294	.118	-.11
WRI01g	283	3.51	3.22	.070	.011	1.18	1.18	11,409	.000	.25
WRI01h	284	2.38	2.91	.071	.011	1.19	1.19	11,399	.000	-.44
WRI01i	283	3.77	3.35	.081	.012	1.36	1.28	11,400	.000	.33
WRI01j	284	2.91	2.86	.079	.012	1.34	1.24	11,395	.521	.04
WRI02a	282	4.25	3.87	.055	.009	0.93	1.00	11,404	.000	.38
WRI02b	284	4.19	3.70	.060	.010	1.00	1.09	301	.000	.45
WRI02c	284	4.43	3.96	.055	.010	0.93	1.04	11,396	.000	.46

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. Comparison group details are in the Selected Comparison Groups report, linked in the Data & Reports table on the Institution Interface.
- 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. You may not see all of these symbols in your report.