



National Survey of Student Engagement
Spring 2017
Trends in NSSE Writing Items

FIRST YEARS				
	2014	2015	2016	2017
	n=108	n=76	n=93	N=83
During the current school year, for how many writing assignments have you done the following?				
<i>1 = no writing assignments; 2 = few writing assignments; 3 = some writing assignments; 4 = most writing assignments; 5 = all writing assignments</i>				
Talked with a classmate, friend to develop your ideas before starting your assignment	3.2	3.3	3.1	3.3
Received feedback from a classmate, friend about a draft before turning it in	4.0	4.0	3.9	3.8
Gave feedback to a classmate about a draft or outline	3.7	3.8	3.7	3.6
Summarized material you read such as articles, books, or online publications	3.5	3.2	3.2	3.3
Analyzed or evaluated something you read, researched, or observed	4.2	4.2	4.0	4.1
Described your methods or findings related to data you collected	3.4	3.4	3.4	3.2
Argued a position using evidence and reasoning	4.3	4.2	4.1	4.3
Explained in writing the meaning of numerical or statistical data	3.3	3.5	3.5	3.3
Wrote in the style and format of a specific field	3.6	3.7	3.6	3.4
Addressed a real or imagined audience	3.9	3.6	3.8	3.5
During the current school year, for how many of your writing assignments has your instructor done the following?				
<i>1 = no writing assignments; 2 = few writing assignments; 3 = some writing assignments; 4 = most writing assignments; 5 = all writing assignments</i>				
Provided clear instructions describing what they wanted you to do	4.0	4.0	4.0	3.9
Explained in advance what they wanted you to learn	3.5	3.5	3.6	3.3
Explained in advance the criteria that would be used to grade your assignment	3.5	3.4	3.6	3.6
During the current school year, about how often have you done the following?				
<i>1 = never; 2 = sometimes; 3 = often; 4 = very often</i>				
Prepared two or more drafts of a paper or assignment before turning it in	2.8	2.8	2.8	2.7
During the current school year, about how many papers, reports, or other writing tasks of the following lengths have you been assigned?				
Up to 5 pages	6.4	6.1	4.9	3.0
Between 6-10 pages	2.0	1.9	1.8	2.0
11 pages or more	0.7	0.8	0.7	1.2
Estimate of pages (NSSE Created)	45.3	44.9	40.0	35.1
How much has your experience at this institution contributed to your knowledge, skills, and personal development in the following areas?				
<i>1 = very little; 2 = some; 3 = quite a bit; 4 = very much</i>				
Writing clearly and effectively	2.9	2.8	2.9	2.7

SENIORS

	<u>2014</u>	<u>2015</u>	<u>2016</u>	<u>2017</u>
	n=120	n=98	n=89	N=85
During the current school year, for how many writing assignments have you done the following?				
<i>1 = no writing assignments; 2 = few writing assignments; 3 = some writing assignments; 4 = most writing assignments; 5 = all writing assignments</i>				
Talked with a classmate, friend to develop your ideas before starting your	2.9	2.8	2.7	2.8
Received feedback from a classmate, friend about a draft before turning it in	2.8	2.6	2.7	2.8
Gave feedback to a classmate about a draft or outline	2.5	2.5	2.4	2.5
Summarized material you read such as articles, books, or online publications	3.0	3.0	3.1	3.0
Analyzed or evaluated something you read, researched, or observed	3.8	3.8	3.8	3.7
Described your methods or findings related to data you collected	3.1	3.1	3.0	3.0
Argued a position using evidence and reasoning	3.8	3.9	3.8	3.8
Explained in writing the meaning of numerical or statistical data	3.1	3.1	3.2	3.1
Wrote in the style and format of a specific field	3.8	3.7	3.7	3.7
Addressed a real or imagined audience	3.5	3.4	3.3	3.4
During the current school year, for how many of your writing assignments has your instructor done the following?				
<i>1 = no writing assignments; 2 = few writing assignments; 3 = some writing assignments; 4 = most writing assignments; 5 = all writing assignments</i>				
Provided clear instructions describing what they wanted you to do	4.1	4.0	3.9	4.0
Explained in advance what they wanted you to learn	3.0	3.1	3.0	3.1
Explained in advance the criteria that would be used to grade your assignment	3.3	3.4	3.2	3.4
During the current school year, about how often have you done the following?				
<i>1 = never; 2 = sometimes; 3 = often; 4 = very often</i>				
Prepared two or more drafts of a paper or assignment before turning it in	2.1	2.0	2.0	2.2
During the current school year, about how many papers, reports, or other writing tasks of the following lengths have you been assigned?				
Up to 5 pages	7.8	7.2	8.8	3.7
Between 6-10 pages	2.7	2.1	3.3	2.2
11 pages or more	1.7	1.3	2.0	2.0
Estimate of pages (NSSE Created)	71.3	58.0	83.7	67.7
How much has your experience at this institution contributed to your knowledge, skills, and personal development in the following areas?				
<i>1 = very little; 2 = some; 3 = quite a bit; 4 = very much</i>				
Writing clearly and effectively	3.1	2.8	2.8	2.9