NSSE 2019 Topical Module Report

Experiences with Writing

Miami University-Oxford

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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	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 (N=71)

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

Item wording or description	Variable name	Values	Response options	Count	%	Count	%	Mean	Mean	Effect size
a. Talked with a classmate, friend, or family member to develop your ideas before starting your assignment	WRI01a	1	No writing assignments	69	8	1,516	9			
		2	Few writing assignments	207	24	4,001	21			
		3	Some writing assignments	323	39	7,011	36	2.9	3.0 ***	-.11
		4	Most writing assignments	194	23	5,104	25			
		5	All writing assignments	40	5	1,585	9			
			Total	833	100	19,217	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	59	7	1,445	8			
		2	Few writing assignments	175	21	3,588	19			
		3	Some writing assignments	278	34	6,046	31	3.1	3.2 *	-.07
		4	Most writing assignments	256	30	5,945	30			
		5	All writing assignments	63	7	2,143	11			
			Total	831	100	19,167	100			
c. Given feedback to a classmate about a draft or outline	WRI01c	1	No writing assignments	62	7	1,829	11			
		2	Few writing assignments	198	24	3,920	20			
		3	Some writing assignments	328	40	6,991	36	2.9	3.0	-.04
		4	Most writing assignments	213	25	5,061	26			
		5	All writing assignments	33	4	1,398	8			
			Total	834	100	19,199	100			
d. Summarized material you read such as articles, books, or online publications	WRI01d	1	No writing assignments	42	5	709	4			
		2	Few writing assignments	120	15	2,708	15			
		3	Some writing assignments	337	41	6,980	36	3.2	3.3 **	-.11
		4	Most writing assignments	268	32	6,719	34			
		5	All writing assignments	64	7	2,066	11			
			Total	831	100	19,182	100			
e. Analyzed or evaluated something you read, researched, or observed	WRI01e	1	No writing assignments	17	2	397	2			
		2	Few writing assignments	82	10	1,680	10			
		3	Some writing assignments	275	34	5,578	29	3.5	3.6 *	-.08
		4	Most writing assignments	341	40	8,328	42			
		5	All writing assignments	119	14	3,194	17			
			Total	834	100	19,177	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	110	13	3,036	16			
		2	Few writing assignments	163	19	4,054	21			
		3	Some writing assignments	287	36	5,981	31	3.0	2.9	.05
		4	Most writing assignments	211	25	4,575	24			
		5	All writing assignments	60	7	1,491	9			
			Total	831	100	19,137	100			
g. Argued a position using evidence and reasoning	WRI01g	1	No writing assignments	55	6	1,077	6			
		2	Few writing assignments	130	15	2,505	14			
		3	Some writing assignments	288	35	6,008	32	3.3	3.3 *	-.08
		4	Most writing assignments	268	33	6,961	35			
		5	All writing assignments	91	11	2,595	14			
			Total	832	100	19,146	100			

NSSE 2019 Experiences with Writing
Frequencies and Statistical Comparisons
Miami University-Oxford

First-Year Students

Item wording or description	Variable name	Values[c]	Response options	Frequency Distributions[a] Miami University Count	%	Writing Experiences Count	%	Statistical Comparisons[b] Miami University Mean	Writing Experiences Mean	Effect size[d]
h. Explained in writing the meaning of numerical or statistical data	WRI01h	1	No writing assignments	149	16	4,698	25			
		2	Few writing assignments	186	21	4,874	25			
		3	Some writing assignments	263	33	5,300	28	2.8	2.6 ***	.22
		4	Most writing assignments	183	23	3,229	17			
		5	All writing assignments	51	6	1,021	6			
			Total	832	100	19,122	100			
i. Written in the style and format of a specific field (engineering, history, psychology, etc.)	WRI01i	1	No writing assignments	113	13	3,128	17			
		2	Few writing assignments	139	17	3,712	19			
		3	Some writing assignments	241	30	5,456	28	3.1	3.0 ***	.12
		4	Most writing assignments	239	30	4,666	24			
		5	All writing assignments	99	11	2,190	12			
			Total	831	100	19,152	100			
j. Addressed a real or imagined audience such as your classmates, a politician, non-experts, etc.	WRI01j	1	No writing assignments	145	16	2,810	15			
		2	Few writing assignments	184	21	3,810	20			
		3	Some writing assignments	265	33	5,948	31	2.8	2.9 **	-.09
		4	Most writing assignments	177	22	4,635	24			
		5	All writing assignments	59	7	1,912	10			
			Total	830	100	19,115	100			

2. During the current school year, for how many of your *writing assignments* have your *instructors* done the following?

Item wording or description	Variable name	Values[c]	Response options	Miami University Count	%	Writing Experiences Count	%	Miami University Mean	Writing Experiences Mean	Effect size[d]
a. Provided clear instructions describing what they wanted you to do	WRI02a	1	No writing assignments	11	1	294	2			
		2	Few writing assignments	54	7	1,184	7			
		3	Some writing assignments	204	25	3,943	21	3.8	3.9 ***	-.12
		4	Most writing assignments	405	48	8,754	43			
		5	All writing assignments	156	19	4,951	28			
			Total	830	100	19,126	100			
b. Explained in advance what they wanted you to learn	WRI02b	1	No writing assignments	34	4	545	3			
		2	Few writing assignments	114	13	2,126	11			
		3	Some writing assignments	257	31	5,133	26	3.4	3.7 ***	-.24
		4	Most writing assignments	310	38	6,879	35			
		5	All writing assignments	113	14	4,410	26			
			Total	828	100	19,093	100			
c. Explained in advance the criteria they would use to grade your assignment	WRI02c	1	No writing assignments	12	1	355	2			
		2	Few writing assignments	55	7	1,206	6			
		3	Some writing assignments	179	21	3,857	20	3.9	4.0 *	-.08
		4	Most writing assignments	341	42	7,058	35			
		5	All writing assignments	237	29	6,634	37			
			Total	824	100	19,110	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

Frequencies and Statistical Comparisons
Miami University-Oxford

Seniors

Item wording or description	Variable name	Values [c]	Response options	Frequency Distributions [a] Miami University Count	%	Writing Experiences Count	%	Statistical Comparisons [b] Miami University Mean	Writing Experiences 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	74	10	2,381	11	**2.9**	3.0 *	-.06
		2	Few writing assignments	178	22	5,272	22			
		3	Some writing assignments	329	40	8,221	34			
		4	Most writing assignments	209	25	5,891	24			
		5	All writing assignments	32	4	2,118	9			
			Total	822	100	23,883	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	77	11	3,223	15	**2.8**	2.8	-.03
		2	Few writing assignments	226	28	5,730	24			
		3	Some writing assignments	305	37	7,634	32			
		4	Most writing assignments	171	20	5,319	22			
		5	All writing assignments	41	5	1,898	8			
			Total	820	100	23,804	100			
c. Given feedback to a classmate about a draft or outline	WRI01c	1	No writing assignments	79	11	4,520	20	**2.7**	2.6 **	.10
		2	Few writing assignments	227	28	5,876	24			
		3	Some writing assignments	346	41	8,151	33			
		4	Most writing assignments	146	18	4,153	17			
		5	All writing assignments	22	3	1,145	5			
			Total	820	100	23,845	100			
d. Summarized material you read such as articles, books, or online publications	WRI01d	1	No writing assignments	34	5	1,114	5	**3.3**	3.4 **	-.11
		2	Few writing assignments	107	14	3,027	13			
		3	Some writing assignments	314	38	7,742	32			
		4	Most writing assignments	293	35	8,557	35			
		5	All writing assignments	75	9	3,378	15			
			Total	823	100	23,818	100			
e. Analyzed or evaluated something you read, researched, or observed	WRI01e	1	No writing assignments	18	2	666	3	**3.7**	3.7	-.04
		2	Few writing assignments	71	9	1,858	8			
		3	Some writing assignments	209	25	5,786	24			
		4	Most writing assignments	371	44	10,486	43			
		5	All writing assignments	152	18	5,040	21			
			Total	821	100	23,836	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	98	12	2,922	12	**3.0**	3.1 ***	-.13
		2	Few writing assignments	173	21	4,177	17			
		3	Some writing assignments	265	33	7,265	30			
		4	Most writing assignments	238	29	6,794	29			
		5	All writing assignments	47	6	2,634	12			
			Total	821	100	23,792	100			
g. Argued a position using evidence and reasoning	WRI01g	1	No writing assignments	50	7	1,796	8	**3.4**	3.3 **	.10
		2	Few writing assignments	111	14	3,474	15			
		3	Some writing assignments	230	28	7,467	31			
		4	Most writing assignments	308	37	7,727	32			
		5	All writing assignments	119	15	3,359	14			
			Total	818	100	23,823	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
Frequencies and Statistical Comparisons
Miami University-Oxford

Seniors

| | | | | Frequency Distributions[a] | | | | Statistical Comparisons[b] | | |
| | | | | Miami University | | Writing Experiences | | Miami University | Writing Experiences | |
Item wording or description	Variable name	Values[c]	Response options	Count	%	Count	%	Mean	Mean	Effect size[d]
h. Explained in writing the meaning of numerical or statistical data	WRI01h	1	No writing assignments	105	12	3,794	16			
		2	Few writing assignments	205	24	5,521	23			
		3	Some writing assignments	246	30	7,591	32	**2.9**	2.8 *	.08
		4	Most writing assignments	203	25	5,099	22			
		5	All writing assignments	61	8	1,787	8			
			Total	820	100	23,792	100			
i. Written in the style and format of a specific field (engineering, history, psychology, etc.)	WRI01i	1	No writing assignments	78	10	2,638	12			
		2	Few writing assignments	98	12	3,133	13			
		3	Some writing assignments	199	25	5,338	23	**3.4**	3.4	.02
		4	Most writing assignments	295	35	7,164	30			
		5	All writing assignments	151	19	5,521	23			
			Total	821	100	23,794	100			
j. Addressed a real or imagined audience such as your classmates, a politician, non-experts, etc.	WRI01j	1	No writing assignments	93	12	3,437	15			
		2	Few writing assignments	183	22	4,756	20			
		3	Some writing assignments	300	36	7,370	31	**2.9**	2.9	-.01
		4	Most writing assignments	170	20	5,550	23			
		5	All writing assignments	75	10	2,637	11			
			Total	821	100	23,750	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	14	2	455	2			
		2	Few writing assignments	29	3	1,339	6			
		3	Some writing assignments	194	24	4,442	19	**3.8**	3.9 ***	-.13
		4	Most writing assignments	467	56	10,993	45			
		5	All writing assignments	116	15	6,575	28			
			Total	820	100	23,804	100			
b. Explained in advance what they wanted you to learn	WRI02b	1	No writing assignments	29	4	754	4			
		2	Few writing assignments	108	13	2,418	10			
		3	Some writing assignments	271	32	5,881	24	**3.4**	3.7 ***	-.27
		4	Most writing assignments	307	38	8,482	35			
		5	All writing assignments	103	13	6,230	27			
			Total	818	100	23,765	100			
c. Explained in advance the criteria they would use to grade your assignment	WRI02c	1	No writing assignments	11	2	489	2			
		2	Few writing assignments	44	5	1,276	5			
		3	Some writing assignments	185	22	3,927	16	**3.9**	4.1 ***	-.17
		4	Most writing assignments	371	45	8,583	35			
		5	All writing assignments	211	27	9,503	41			
			Total	822	100	23,778	100			

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

First-Year Students

Variable name	N	Mean		Standard error[f]		Standard deviation[g]		DF[h]	Sig.[i]	Effect size[d]
	Miami University	Miami University	Writing Experiences	Miami University	Writing Experiences	Miami University	Writing Experiences	Comparisons with: Writing Experiences		
WRI01a	829	2.91	3.03	.035	.009	1.00	1.08	933	.001	-.11
WRI01b	826	3.09	3.17	.036	.009	1.04	1.12	928	.041	-.07
WRI01c	829	2.95	2.99	.033	.009	0.96	1.09	943	.181	-.04
WRI01d	825	3.22	3.33	.033	.008	0.96	1.00	920	.002	-.11
WRI01e	829	3.54	3.61	.032	.008	0.92	0.96	16,539	.029	-.08
WRI01f	826	2.95	2.89	.039	.009	1.11	1.18	927	.133	.05
WRI01g	828	3.26	3.35	.036	.009	1.05	1.08	16,498	.027	-.08
WRI01h	828	2.82	2.55	.040	.010	1.14	1.20	927	.000	.22
WRI01i	827	3.10	2.95	.041	.010	1.19	1.26	927	.000	.12
WRI01j	825	2.83	2.94	.041	.010	1.16	1.21	16,473	.009	-.09
WRI02a	826	3.77	3.89	.030	.008	0.87	0.94	16,487	.001	-.12
WRI02b	825	3.44	3.69	.035	.008	1.02	1.06	16,461	.000	-.24
WRI02c	820	3.90	3.98	.033	.008	0.94	1.01	920	.018	-.08

NSSE 2019 Experiences with Writing

Detailed Statistics[e]
Miami University-Oxford

Seniors

Variable name	N	Mean		Standard error[f]		Standard deviation[g]		DF[h]	Sig.[i]	Effect size[d]
	Miami University	Miami University	Writing Experiences	Miami University	Writing Experiences	Miami University	Writing Experiences	*Comparisons with: Writing Experiences*		
WRI01a	819	2.90	2.98	.035	.008	1.00	1.12	909	.047	-.06
WRI01b	818	2.81	2.85	.036	.008	1.03	1.16	907	.362	-.03
WRI01c	818	2.74	2.63	.034	.008	0.96	1.14	917	.002	.10
WRI01d	821	3.30	3.41	.034	.008	0.97	1.05	904	.001	-.11
WRI01e	819	3.67	3.71	.034	.007	0.96	0.99	19,968	.250	-.04
WRI01f	818	2.95	3.10	.038	.009	1.10	1.19	901	.000	-.13
WRI01g	816	3.40	3.29	.039	.008	1.11	1.13	19,953	.006	.10
WRI01h	818	2.93	2.83	.040	.008	1.14	1.17	19,921	.019	.08
WRI01i	819	3.42	3.39	.042	.009	1.19	1.29	901	.597	.02
WRI01j	819	2.94	2.95	.040	.009	1.13	1.21	900	.803	-.01
WRI02a	816	3.79	3.91	.028	.007	0.81	0.95	914	.000	-.13
WRI02b	815	3.44	3.73	.035	.008	1.00	1.08	896	.000	-.27
WRI02c	819	3.90	4.06	.032	.007	0.90	1.00	906	.000	-.17

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 Ns 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.