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# **NSSE 2019 Topical Module Report**

## **Experiences with Writing**

University of Toledo

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

## Writing Experiences (N=71), continued

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University of St. Thomas (Houston, TX)

University of Tampa, The (Tampa, FL)

University of the Cumberlands (Williamsburg, KY)

University of the Incarnate Word (San Antonio, TX)

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 <sup>c</sup> | Response options         | Frequency Distributions <sup>a</sup> |     |                     |     | Statistical Comparisons <sup>b</sup> |                     |                          |
|---|---------------|---------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------------------|-----|---------------------|-----|--------------------------------------|---------------------|--------------------------|
|   |               |                     |                          | UToledo                              |     | Writing Experiences |     | UToledo                              | Writing Experiences | Effect size <sup>d</sup> |
|   |               |                     |                          | Count                                | %   | Count               | %   | Mean                                 | Mean                |                          |
| <b>1. During the current school year, for how many writing assignments have you done the following?</b>               |               |                     |                          |                                      |     |                     |     |                                      |                     |                          |
| a. Talked with a classmate, friend, or family member to develop your ideas before starting your assignment            | WRI01a        | 1                   | No writing assignments   | 65                                   | 10  | 1,520               | 9   | <b>3.0</b>                           | 3.0                 | -.07                     |
|   |               | 2                   | Few writing assignments  | 145                                  | 22  | 4,063               | 22  |                                      |                     |                          |
|   |               | 3                   | Some writing assignments | 263                                  | 39  | 7,071               | 36  |                                      |                     |                          |
|   |               | 4                   | Most writing assignments | 162                                  | 23  | 5,136               | 25  |                                      |                     |                          |
|   |               | 5                   | All writing assignments  | 49                                   | 7   | 1,576               | 9   |                                      |                     |                          |
|   |               | Total               |                          | 684                                  | 100 | 19,366              | 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   | 67                                   | 10  | 1,437               | 8   | <b>3.1</b>                           | 3.2                 | -.04                     |
|   |               | 2                   | Few writing assignments  | 123                                  | 18  | 3,640               | 20  |                                      |                     |                          |
|   |               | 3                   | Some writing assignments | 211                                  | 32  | 6,113               | 31  |                                      |                     |                          |
|   |               | 4                   | Most writing assignments | 200                                  | 29  | 6,001               | 30  |                                      |                     |                          |
|   |               | 5                   | All writing assignments  | 82                                   | 11  | 2,124               | 11  |                                      |                     |                          |
|   |               | Total               |                          | 683                                  | 100 | 19,315              | 100 |                                      |                     |                          |
| c. Given feedback to a classmate about a draft or outline   | WRI01c        | 1                   | No writing assignments   | 71                                   | 10  | 1,820               | 11  | <b>3.0</b>                           | 3.0                 | .02                      |
|   |               | 2                   | Few writing assignments  | 129                                  | 19  | 3,989               | 21  |                                      |                     |                          |
|   |               | 3                   | Some writing assignments | 257                                  | 39  | 7,062               | 36  |                                      |                     |                          |
|   |               | 4                   | Most writing assignments | 173                                  | 25  | 5,101               | 26  |                                      |                     |                          |
|   |               | 5                   | All writing assignments  | 57                                   | 8   | 1,374               | 8   |                                      |                     |                          |
|   |               | Total               |                          | 687                                  | 100 | 19,346              | 100 |                                      |                     |                          |
| d. Summarized material you read such as articles, books, or online publications                                       | WRI01d        | 1                   | No writing assignments   | 38                                   | 6   | 713                 | 4   | <b>3.2</b>                           | 3.3 ***             | -.13                     |
|   |               | 2                   | Few writing assignments  | 111                                  | 16  | 2,717               | 15  |                                      |                     |                          |
|   |               | 3                   | Some writing assignments | 258                                  | 39  | 7,059               | 36  |                                      |                     |                          |
|   |               | 4                   | Most writing assignments | 213                                  | 31  | 6,774               | 34  |                                      |                     |                          |
|   |               | 5                   | All writing assignments  | 63                                   | 9   | 2,067               | 11  |                                      |                     |                          |
|   |               | Total               |                          | 683                                  | 100 | 19,330              | 100 |                                      |                     |                          |
| e. Analyzed or evaluated something you read, researched, or observed  | WRI01e        | 1                   | No writing assignments   | 28                                   | 5   | 386                 | 2   | <b>3.4</b>                           | 3.6 ***             | -.24                     |
|   |               | 2                   | Few writing assignments  | 81                                   | 12  | 1,681               | 9   |                                      |                     |                          |
|   |               | 3                   | Some writing assignments | 240                                  | 36  | 5,613               | 29  |                                      |                     |                          |
|   |               | 4                   | Most writing assignments | 243                                  | 35  | 8,426               | 42  |                                      |                     |                          |
|   |               | 5                   | All writing assignments  | 93                                   | 13  | 3,220               | 17  |                                      |                     |                          |
|   |               | Total               |                          | 685                                  | 100 | 19,326              | 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   | 101                                  | 15  | 3,045               | 15  | <b>2.9</b>                           | 2.9                 | -.02                     |
|   |               | 2                   | Few writing assignments  | 145                                  | 21  | 4,072               | 21  |                                      |                     |                          |
|   |               | 3                   | Some writing assignments | 222                                  | 33  | 6,046               | 32  |                                      |                     |                          |
|   |               | 4                   | Most writing assignments | 169                                  | 24  | 4,617               | 24  |                                      |                     |                          |
|   |               | 5                   | All writing assignments  | 50                                   | 7   | 1,501               | 9   |                                      |                     |                          |
|   |               | Total               |                          | 687                                  | 100 | 19,281              | 100 |                                      |                     |                          |
| g. Argued a position using evidence and reasoning   | WRI01g        | 1                   | No writing assignments   | 58                                   | 9   | 1,074               | 6   | <b>3.1</b>                           | 3.4 ***             | -.19                     |
|   |               | 2                   | Few writing assignments  | 127                                  | 18  | 2,508               | 14  |                                      |                     |                          |
|   |               | 3                   | Some writing assignments | 216                                  | 32  | 6,080               | 32  |                                      |                     |                          |
|   |               | 4                   | Most writing assignments | 212                                  | 30  | 7,017               | 35  |                                      |                     |                          |
|   |               | 5                   | All writing assignments  | 71                                   | 10  | 2,615               | 14  |                                      |                     |                          |
|   |               | Total               |                          | 684                                  | 100 | 19,294              | 100 |                                      |                     |                          |

## First-Year Students

| Item wording or description  | Variable name | Values <sup>c</sup> | Response options         | Frequency Distributions <sup>a</sup> |        |                     |    | Statistical Comparisons <sup>b</sup> |                     |                          |
|--|---------------|---------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------------------|--------|---------------------|----|--------------------------------------|---------------------|--------------------------|
|  |               |                     |                          | UToledo                              |        | Writing Experiences |    | UToledo                              | Writing Experiences |                          |
|  |               |                     |                          | Count                                | %      | Count               | %  | Mean                                 | Mean                | Effect size <sup>d</sup> |
| h. Explained in writing the meaning of numerical or statistical data   | WRI01h        | 1                   | No writing assignments   | 147                                  | 21     | 4,700               | 24 | <b>2.6</b>                           | 2.6                 | .05                      |
|  |               | 2                   | Few writing assignments  | 180                                  | 26     | 4,880               | 25 |                                      |                     |                          |
|  |               | 3                   | Some writing assignments | 203                                  | 30     | 5,360               | 28 |                                      |                     |                          |
|  |               | 4                   | Most writing assignments | 111                                  | 17     | 3,301               | 18 |                                      |                     |                          |
|  |               | 5                   | All writing assignments  | 45                                   | 6      | 1,027               | 6  |                                      |                     |                          |
|  |               | Total               | 686                      | 100                                  | 19,268 | 100                 |    |                                      |                     |                          |
| i. Written in the style and format of a specific field (engineering, history, psychology, etc.)                              | WRI01i        | 1                   | No writing assignments   | 137                                  | 19     | 3,104               | 17 | <b>2.8</b>                           | 3.0 *               | -.09                     |
|  |               | 2                   | Few writing assignments  | 140                                  | 20     | 3,711               | 19 |                                      |                     |                          |
|  |               | 3                   | Some writing assignments | 189                                  | 28     | 5,508               | 28 |                                      |                     |                          |
|  |               | 4                   | Most writing assignments | 145                                  | 22     | 4,760               | 24 |                                      |                     |                          |
|  |               | 5                   | All writing assignments  | 74                                   | 11     | 2,215               | 12 |                                      |                     |                          |
|  |               | Total               | 685                      | 100                                  | 19,298 | 100                 |    |                                      |                     |                          |
| j. Addressed a real or imagined audience such as your classmates, a politician, non-experts, etc.                            | WRI01j        | 1                   | No writing assignments   | 140                                  | 20     | 2,815               | 15 | <b>2.8</b>                           | 2.9 **              | -.12                     |
|  |               | 2                   | Few writing assignments  | 139                                  | 20     | 3,855               | 20 |                                      |                     |                          |
|  |               | 3                   | Some writing assignments | 200                                  | 30     | 6,013               | 31 |                                      |                     |                          |
|  |               | 4                   | Most writing assignments | 140                                  | 21     | 4,672               | 24 |                                      |                     |                          |
|  |               | 5                   | All writing assignments  | 65                                   | 10     | 1,906               | 10 |                                      |                     |                          |
|  |               | Total               | 684                      | 100                                  | 19,261 | 100                 |    |                                      |                     |                          |
| <b>2. During the current school year, for how many of your writing assignments have your instructors done the following?</b> |               |                     |                          |                                      |        |                     |    |                                      |                     |                          |
| a. Provided clear instructions describing what they wanted you to do   | WRI02a        | 1                   | No writing assignments   | 23                                   | 4      | 282                 | 2  | <b>3.7</b>                           | 3.9 ***             | -.20                     |
|  |               | 2                   | Few writing assignments  | 59                                   | 9      | 1,179               | 6  |                                      |                     |                          |
|  |               | 3                   | Some writing assignments | 158                                  | 24     | 3,989               | 21 |                                      |                     |                          |
|  |               | 4                   | Most writing assignments | 287                                  | 41     | 8,872               | 44 |                                      |                     |                          |
|  |               | 5                   | All writing assignments  | 158                                  | 23     | 4,949               | 27 |                                      |                     |                          |
|  |               | Total               | 685                      | 100                                  | 19,271 | 100                 |    |                                      |                     |                          |
| b. Explained in advance what they wanted you to learn  | WRI02b        | 1                   | No writing assignments   | 36                                   | 5      | 543                 | 3  | <b>3.5</b>                           | 3.7 ***             | -.14                     |
|  |               | 2                   | Few writing assignments  | 80                                   | 11     | 2,160               | 11 |                                      |                     |                          |
|  |               | 3                   | Some writing assignments | 192                                  | 29     | 5,198               | 26 |                                      |                     |                          |
|  |               | 4                   | Most writing assignments | 234                                  | 33     | 6,955               | 35 |                                      |                     |                          |
|  |               | 5                   | All writing assignments  | 140                                  | 21     | 4,383               | 25 |                                      |                     |                          |
|  |               | Total               | 682                      | 100                                  | 19,239 | 100                 |    |                                      |                     |                          |
| c. Explained in advance the criteria they would use to grade your assignment   | WRI02c        | 1                   | No writing assignments   | 27                                   | 4      | 340                 | 2  | <b>3.8</b>                           | 4.0 ***             | -.21                     |
|  |               | 2                   | Few writing assignments  | 52                                   | 8      | 1,209               | 6  |                                      |                     |                          |
|  |               | 3                   | Some writing assignments | 152                                  | 23     | 3,884               | 20 |                                      |                     |                          |
|  |               | 4                   | Most writing assignments | 252                                  | 36     | 7,147               | 35 |                                      |                     |                          |
|  |               | 5                   | All writing assignments  | 200                                  | 29     | 6,671               | 37 |                                      |                     |                          |
|  |               | Total               | 683                      | 100                                  | 19,251 | 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 <sup>c</sup> | Response options         | Frequency Distributions <sup>a</sup> |     |                     |     | Statistical Comparisons <sup>b</sup> |                     |                          |
|---|---------------|---------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------------------|-----|---------------------|-----|--------------------------------------|---------------------|--------------------------|
|   |               |                     |                          | UToledo                              |     | Writing Experiences |     | UToledo                              | Writing Experiences |                          |
|   |               |                     |                          | Count                                | %   | Count               | %   | Mean                                 | Mean                | Effect size <sup>d</sup> |
| <b>1. During the current school year, for how many writing assignments have you done the following?</b>               |               |                     |                          |                                      |     |                     |     |                                      |                     |                          |
| a. Talked with a classmate, friend, or family member to develop your ideas before starting your assignment            | WRI01a        | 1                   | No writing assignments   | 57                                   | 13  | 2,398               | 11  | <b>2.9</b>                           | 3.0                 | -.07                     |
|   |               | 2                   | Few writing assignments  | 110                                  | 23  | 5,340               | 22  |                                      |                     |                          |
|   |               | 3                   | Some writing assignments | 160                                  | 32  | 8,390               | 34  |                                      |                     |                          |
|   |               | 4                   | Most writing assignments | 123                                  | 25  | 5,977               | 24  |                                      |                     |                          |
|   |               | 5                   | All writing assignments  | 30                                   | 7   | 2,120               | 9   |                                      |                     |                          |
|   |               | Total               |                          | 480                                  | 100 | 24,225              | 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   | 83                                   | 19  | 3,217               | 14  | <b>2.7</b>                           | 2.9 ***             | -.16                     |
|   |               | 2                   | Few writing assignments  | 125                                  | 27  | 5,831               | 24  |                                      |                     |                          |
|   |               | 3                   | Some writing assignments | 149                                  | 29  | 7,790               | 32  |                                      |                     |                          |
|   |               | 4                   | Most writing assignments | 95                                   | 19  | 5,395               | 22  |                                      |                     |                          |
|   |               | 5                   | All writing assignments  | 29                                   | 6   | 1,910               | 8   |                                      |                     |                          |
|   |               | Total               |                          | 481                                  | 100 | 24,143              | 100 |                                      |                     |                          |
| c. Given feedback to a classmate about a draft or outline   | WRI01c        | 1                   | No writing assignments   | 92                                   | 21  | 4,507               | 20  | <b>2.6</b>                           | 2.6                 | -.03                     |
|   |               | 2                   | Few writing assignments  | 124                                  | 25  | 5,979               | 24  |                                      |                     |                          |
|   |               | 3                   | Some writing assignments | 163                                  | 33  | 8,334               | 34  |                                      |                     |                          |
|   |               | 4                   | Most writing assignments | 80                                   | 16  | 4,219               | 17  |                                      |                     |                          |
|   |               | 5                   | All writing assignments  | 23                                   | 5   | 1,144               | 5   |                                      |                     |                          |
|   |               | Total               |                          | 482                                  | 100 | 24,183              | 100 |                                      |                     |                          |
| d. Summarized material you read such as articles, books, or online publications                                       | WRI01d        | 1                   | No writing assignments   | 43                                   | 11  | 1,105               | 5   | <b>3.2</b>                           | 3.4 ***             | -.24                     |
|   |               | 2                   | Few writing assignments  | 64                                   | 14  | 3,070               | 13  |                                      |                     |                          |
|   |               | 3                   | Some writing assignments | 162                                  | 33  | 7,894               | 33  |                                      |                     |                          |
|   |               | 4                   | Most writing assignments | 167                                  | 32  | 8,683               | 35  |                                      |                     |                          |
|   |               | 5                   | All writing assignments  | 46                                   | 10  | 3,407               | 15  |                                      |                     |                          |
|   |               | Total               |                          | 482                                  | 100 | 24,159              | 100 |                                      |                     |                          |
| e. Analyzed or evaluated something you read, researched, or observed  | WRI01e        | 1                   | No writing assignments   | 23                                   | 6   | 661                 | 3   | <b>3.5</b>                           | 3.7 ***             | -.24                     |
|   |               | 2                   | Few writing assignments  | 51                                   | 11  | 1,878               | 8   |                                      |                     |                          |
|   |               | 3                   | Some writing assignments | 127                                  | 26  | 5,868               | 24  |                                      |                     |                          |
|   |               | 4                   | Most writing assignments | 211                                  | 42  | 10,646              | 43  |                                      |                     |                          |
|   |               | 5                   | All writing assignments  | 70                                   | 15  | 5,122               | 22  |                                      |                     |                          |
|   |               | Total               |                          | 482                                  | 100 | 24,175              | 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   | 59                                   | 13  | 2,961               | 12  | <b>3.1</b>                           | 3.1                 | -.03                     |
|   |               | 2                   | Few writing assignments  | 88                                   | 18  | 4,262               | 17  |                                      |                     |                          |
|   |               | 3                   | Some writing assignments | 147                                  | 30  | 7,383               | 30  |                                      |                     |                          |
|   |               | 4                   | Most writing assignments | 142                                  | 29  | 6,890               | 29  |                                      |                     |                          |
|   |               | 5                   | All writing assignments  | 46                                   | 10  | 2,635               | 11  |                                      |                     |                          |
|   |               | Total               |                          | 482                                  | 100 | 24,131              | 100 |                                      |                     |                          |
| g. Argued a position using evidence and reasoning   | WRI01g        | 1                   | No writing assignments   | 67                                   | 15  | 1,779               | 8   | <b>3.0</b>                           | 3.3 ***             | -.25                     |
|   |               | 2                   | Few writing assignments  | 85                                   | 17  | 3,500               | 15  |                                      |                     |                          |
|   |               | 3                   | Some writing assignments | 138                                  | 28  | 7,559               | 31  |                                      |                     |                          |
|   |               | 4                   | Most writing assignments | 144                                  | 29  | 7,891               | 32  |                                      |                     |                          |
|   |               | 5                   | All writing assignments  | 46                                   | 11  | 3,432               | 14  |                                      |                     |                          |
|   |               | Total               |                          | 480                                  | 100 | 24,161              | 100 |                                      |                     |                          |

## Seniors

| Item wording or description  | Variable name | Values <sup>c</sup> | Response options         | Frequency Distributions <sup>a</sup> |     |                     |     | Statistical Comparisons <sup>b</sup> |                     |                          |
|--|---------------|---------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------------------|-----|---------------------|-----|--------------------------------------|---------------------|--------------------------|
|  |               |                     |                          | UToledo                              |     | Writing Experiences |     | UToledo                              | Writing Experiences |                          |
|  |               |                     |                          | Count                                | %   | Count               | %   | Mean                                 | Mean                | Effect size <sup>d</sup> |
| h. Explained in writing the meaning of numerical or statistical data   | WRI01h        | 1                   | No writing assignments   | 78                                   | 16  | 3,821               | 16  | <b>2.9</b>                           | 2.8                 | .07                      |
|  |               | 2                   | Few writing assignments  | 99                                   | 19  | 5,627               | 23  |                                      |                     |                          |
|  |               | 3                   | Some writing assignments | 150                                  | 32  | 7,687               | 32  |                                      |                     |                          |
|  |               | 4                   | Most writing assignments | 121                                  | 26  | 5,181               | 22  |                                      |                     |                          |
|  |               | 5                   | All writing assignments  | 33                                   | 8   | 1,815               | 8   |                                      |                     |                          |
|  |               | Total               |                          | 481                                  | 100 | 24,131              | 100 |                                      |                     |                          |
| i. Written in the style and format of a specific field (engineering, history, psychology, etc.)                              | WRI01i        | 1                   | No writing assignments   | 74                                   | 15  | 2,642               | 11  | <b>3.2</b>                           | 3.4 **              | -.14                     |
|  |               | 2                   | Few writing assignments  | 63                                   | 13  | 3,168               | 13  |                                      |                     |                          |
|  |               | 3                   | Some writing assignments | 112                                  | 23  | 5,425               | 23  |                                      |                     |                          |
|  |               | 4                   | Most writing assignments | 151                                  | 31  | 7,308               | 30  |                                      |                     |                          |
|  |               | 5                   | All writing assignments  | 82                                   | 18  | 5,590               | 23  |                                      |                     |                          |
|  |               | Total               |                          | 482                                  | 100 | 24,133              | 100 |                                      |                     |                          |
| j. Addressed a real or imagined audience such as your classmates, a politician, non-experts, etc.                            | WRI01j        | 1                   | No writing assignments   | 101                                  | 21  | 3,429               | 15  | <b>2.7</b>                           | 3.0 ***             | -.18                     |
|  |               | 2                   | Few writing assignments  | 100                                  | 20  | 4,839               | 20  |                                      |                     |                          |
|  |               | 3                   | Some writing assignments | 139                                  | 29  | 7,531               | 31  |                                      |                     |                          |
|  |               | 4                   | Most writing assignments | 105                                  | 22  | 5,615               | 23  |                                      |                     |                          |
|  |               | 5                   | All writing assignments  | 33                                   | 7   | 2,679               | 11  |                                      |                     |                          |
|  |               | Total               |                          | 478                                  | 100 | 24,093              | 100 |                                      |                     |                          |
| <b>2. During the current school year, for how many of your writing assignments have your instructors done the following?</b> |               |                     |                          |                                      |     |                     |     |                                      |                     |                          |
| a. Provided clear instructions describing what they wanted you to do   | WRI02a        | 1                   | No writing assignments   | 23                                   | 6   | 446                 | 2   | <b>3.6</b>                           | 3.9 ***             | -.29                     |
|  |               | 2                   | Few writing assignments  | 32                                   | 7   | 1,336               | 6   |                                      |                     |                          |
|  |               | 3                   | Some writing assignments | 107                                  | 22  | 4,529               | 19  |                                      |                     |                          |
|  |               | 4                   | Most writing assignments | 231                                  | 47  | 11,229              | 45  |                                      |                     |                          |
|  |               | 5                   | All writing assignments  | 86                                   | 18  | 6,605               | 28  |                                      |                     |                          |
|  |               | Total               |                          | 479                                  | 100 | 24,145              | 100 |                                      |                     |                          |
| b. Explained in advance what they wanted you to learn  | WRI02b        | 1                   | No writing assignments   | 26                                   | 6   | 757                 | 3   | <b>3.5</b>                           | 3.7 ***             | -.25                     |
|  |               | 2                   | Few writing assignments  | 56                                   | 12  | 2,470               | 10  |                                      |                     |                          |
|  |               | 3                   | Some writing assignments | 147                                  | 31  | 6,005               | 24  |                                      |                     |                          |
|  |               | 4                   | Most writing assignments | 162                                  | 32  | 8,627               | 35  |                                      |                     |                          |
|  |               | 5                   | All writing assignments  | 91                                   | 19  | 6,242               | 27  |                                      |                     |                          |
|  |               | Total               |                          | 482                                  | 100 | 24,101              | 100 |                                      |                     |                          |
| c. Explained in advance the criteria they would use to grade your assignment   | WRI02c        | 1                   | No writing assignments   | 22                                   | 6   | 478                 | 2   | <b>3.7</b>                           | 4.1 ***             | -.33                     |
|  |               | 2                   | Few writing assignments  | 34                                   | 7   | 1,286               | 5   |                                      |                     |                          |
|  |               | 3                   | Some writing assignments | 98                                   | 21  | 4,014               | 16  |                                      |                     |                          |
|  |               | 4                   | Most writing assignments | 191                                  | 39  | 8,763               | 35  |                                      |                     |                          |
|  |               | 5                   | All writing assignments  | 133                                  | 27  | 9,581               | 41  |                                      |                     |                          |
|  |               | Total               |                          | 478                                  | 100 | 24,122              | 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 <sup>f</sup> |                     | Standard deviation <sup>g</sup> |                     | DF <sup>h</sup> | Sig. <sup>i</sup> | Effect size <sup>d</sup> |
|---------------|---------|---------|---------------------|-----------------------------|---------------------|---------------------------------|---------------------|-----------------|-------------------|--------------------------|
|               | UToledo | UToledo | Writing Experiences | UToledo                     | Writing Experiences | UToledo                         | Writing Experiences |                 |                   |                          |
| WRI01a        | 675     | 2.96    | 3.03                | .040                        | .010                | 1.05                            | 1.08                | 13,542          | .096              | -.07                     |
| WRI01b        | 675     | 3.12    | 3.16                | .044                        | .010                | 1.14                            | 1.11                | 13,503          | .375              | -.04                     |
| WRI01c        | 678     | 3.01    | 2.99                | .041                        | .010                | 1.07                            | 1.09                | 13,525          | .606              | .02                      |
| WRI01d        | 675     | 3.20    | 3.33                | .039                        | .009                | 1.01                            | 0.99                | 13,518          | .001              | -.13                     |
| WRI01e        | 676     | 3.39    | 3.62                | .039                        | .008                | 1.00                            | 0.95                | 13,516          | .000              | -.24                     |
| WRI01f        | 678     | 2.88    | 2.90                | .044                        | .010                | 1.14                            | 1.18                | 13,475          | .702              | -.02                     |
| WRI01g        | 674     | 3.15    | 3.36                | .043                        | .009                | 1.11                            | 1.07                | 13,482          | .000              | -.19                     |
| WRI01h        | 677     | 2.62    | 2.56                | .045                        | .011                | 1.17                            | 1.20                | 13,470          | .222              | .05                      |
| WRI01i        | 676     | 2.85    | 2.96                | .049                        | .011                | 1.27                            | 1.26                | 13,498          | .018              | -.09                     |
| WRI01j        | 673     | 2.80    | 2.94                | .048                        | .011                | 1.24                            | 1.20                | 740             | .004              | -.12                     |
| WRI02a        | 676     | 3.71    | 3.89                | .040                        | .008                | 1.03                            | 0.94                | 735             | .000              | -.20                     |
| WRI02b        | 673     | 3.53    | 3.69                | .042                        | .009                | 1.10                            | 1.06                | 13,452          | .000              | -.14                     |
| WRI02c        | 674     | 3.77    | 3.99                | .042                        | .009                | 1.08                            | 1.00                | 735             | .000              | -.21                     |

## Seniors

| Variable name | N       | Mean    |                     | Standard error <sup>f</sup> |                     | Standard deviation <sup>g</sup> |                     | DF <sup>h</sup>                          | Sig. <sup>i</sup> | Effect size <sup>d</sup> |
|---------------|---------|---------|---------------------|-----------------------------|---------------------|---------------------------------|---------------------|--|-------------------|--------------------------|
|               | UToledo | UToledo | Writing Experiences | UToledo                     | Writing Experiences | UToledo                         | Writing Experiences | Comparisons with:<br>Writing Experiences |                   |                          |
| WRI01a        | 479     | 2.89    | 2.98                | .051                        | .011                | 1.12                            | 1.12                | 11,719                                   | .112              | -.07                     |
| WRI01b        | 480     | 2.66    | 2.85                | .053                        | .011                | 1.16                            | 1.15                | 11,681                                   | .001              | -.16                     |
| WRI01c        | 481     | 2.60    | 2.64                | .052                        | .011                | 1.14                            | 1.13                | 11,703                                   | .469              | -.03                     |
| WRI01d        | 481     | 3.16    | 3.42                | .051                        | .010                | 1.13                            | 1.04                | 11,689                                   | .000              | -.24                     |
| WRI01e        | 481     | 3.49    | 3.72                | .048                        | .009                | 1.06                            | 0.99                | 516                                      | .000              | -.24                     |
| WRI01f        | 481     | 3.06    | 3.10                | .054                        | .011                | 1.18                            | 1.18                | 11,677                                   | .507              | -.03                     |
| WRI01g        | 478     | 3.03    | 3.30                | .056                        | .011                | 1.22                            | 1.12                | 11,691                                   | .000              | -.25                     |
| WRI01h        | 480     | 2.91    | 2.83                | .054                        | .011                | 1.17                            | 1.17                | 11,673                                   | .163              | .07                      |
| WRI01i        | 481     | 3.22    | 3.40                | .060                        | .012                | 1.31                            | 1.28                | 11,676                                   | .003              | -.14                     |
| WRI01j        | 477     | 2.74    | 2.96                | .056                        | .011                | 1.22                            | 1.21                | 516                                      | .000              | -.18                     |
| WRI02a        | 478     | 3.65    | 3.92                | .048                        | .009                | 1.04                            | 0.94                | 510                                      | .000              | -.29                     |
| WRI02b        | 481     | 3.45    | 3.73                | .051                        | .010                | 1.12                            | 1.07                | 11,664                                   | .000              | -.25                     |
| WRI02c        | 477     | 3.74    | 4.07                | .051                        | .009                | 1.11                            | 0.99                | 509                                      | .000              | -.33                     |

## 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  $N$ 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.