



Understanding Student Writing Practices

You can use the following questions to survey students about their writing practices. The questions can be transferred into an online survey tool such as SurveyMonkey or Zoomerang, or you can print the following pages and distribute paper copies.

Please scroll down to view the survey questions for *NCTE 1.4: Student Writing Practices*, which begin on page 2 of this document.

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- 1. What kinds of writing do you do in school? (Check all that apply)
 - _____ Essay writing
 - _____ Creative nonfiction writing
 - _____ Short answers
 - ____ Creative writing
 - _____ Journalism
 - _____ Journaling/reflective writing
 - Writing for the web (e.g. blogging, creating websites, etc.)
 - Professional writing (e.g. memos, business letters, etc.)
 - College application materials (e.g. college application essays, scholarship applications, etc.)
 - _____ Job application materials (e.g. resumes, cover letters, etc.)
 - ____ Other (please specify) _____
- 2. What do you think is the purpose or value of the writing you do in school? (**Open response**)

- 3. What kinds of writing do you do outside of school?
- _____ Creative writing (e.g. poems, stories, etc.)
- _____ Journal or diary writing
- _____ Letter writing
- _____ Writing for web publication (e.g. blogging, creating websites, posting comments, etc.)
- _____ Writing on social networking sites (e.g. Facebook, MySpace, Twitter, etc.)
- _____ Writing for online gaming (e.g. World of Warcraft)
- _____ Email
- _____ Instant messaging
- _____ Texting
- _____ Writing for extracurricular activities (e.g. yearbook, honors society, etc.)
- _____ Writing at your job
- _____ Writing for a volunteer activities, community service, or community involvement
- _____ Writing for your faith community
- Writing for practice exams (e.g. SAT, ACT, AP)
- _____ Writing for college or scholarship applications
- _____ Writing for job applications
- ____ Other (please specify) _____

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4. What do you think is the purpose or value of the writing you do outside of school? (**Open response**)

- 5. What do you find most challenging about writing assignments at school? (Check all that apply)
- _____ Understanding the assignment
- _____ Coming up with ideas
- _____ Getting my ideas down on paper
- _____ Figuring out how to organize my ideas
- _____ Meeting the assignment's length requirements
- Knowing if what I'm writing will make sense to a reader
- _____ Showing my writing to other students in the class
- _____ Making significant revisions to a paper once I have written a first draft
- _____ Editing for spelling, grammar, and punctuation
- _____ Knowing where to go for help with my writing
- _____ Worrying about my grade or whether my teacher will like my writing
- ____ Other (please specify) _____
- 6. What do you find most useful about writing assignments at school? (Check all that apply)
- _____ They help me learn important class material
- _____ They help me figure out what I think about what I'm learning
- _____ They allow me to express my opinion
- _____ They allow me to express my creativity
- _____ They are an opportunity to communicate with my teacher
- _____ They are an opportunity to communicate with my peers
- _____ They give me good practice for college
- _____ They give me good practice for my future job or career
- ____ Other (please specify) _____
- 7. In your experience, how often do your teachers talk to you specifically about *how* to write?
- _____ Very often
- ____ Sometimes
- ____ Not very often
- ____ Almost never

Gere, Anne Ruggles, Hannah Dickinson, Melinda McBee Orzulak and Stephanie Moody. *Taking Initiative on Writing:* A Guide for Instructional Leaders. Urbana, IL: National Council of Teachers of English, 2010.

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- 8. Besides your teachers, who can you ask for help with your writing? (Check all that apply)
- _____ Parent/guardian
- _____ Grandparent
- _____ Aunt/uncle
- _____ Family friend
- _____ Sibling
- ____ Cousin
- ____ Classmate
- _____ Friend
- _____ Tutor
- _____ Librarian
- ____ Counselor
- ____ Other (please specify) _____

Open Response:

9. If you could improve one aspect of your writing, what would it be?

10. If you could improve one aspect of writing instruction in your school, what would it be?