



NCTE 4.3

Analyzing Student Writing

You can use the following questions to survey faculty and staff about student writing. 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 4.3: Analyzing Student Writing*, which begin on page 2 of this document.



Analyzing Student Writing

1. What forms or genres are students most adept in? (Check all that apply)

- Expository or informative essays/research reports
- Persuasive/argumentative essays
- Narratives
- Short answer
- Writing to explain an answer
- Letter writing/correspondence
- College/scholarship application essays
- Creative writing
- Journalism
- Lab reports
- Poster presentations
- Electronically supported presentation (e.g. PowerPoint, Prezi, etc.)
- Writing to present/speeches
- Web pages/content
- Fliers/brochures
- Professional writing (e.g. memos, business letters, etc.)
- Other (please specify) _____

2. What genres do students struggle with? (Check all that apply)

- Expository or informative essays/research reports
- Persuasive/argumentative essays
- Narratives
- Short answer
- Writing to explain an answer
- Letter writing/correspondence
- College/scholarship application essays
- Creative writing
- Journalism
- Lab reports
- Poster presentations
- Electronically supported presentation (e.g. PowerPoint, Prezi, etc.)
- Writing to present/speeches
- Web pages/content
- Fliers/brochures
- Professional writing (e.g. memos, business letters, etc.)
- Other (please specify) _____



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3. How similar are the genres that our students read and the genres in which they write?

- Very similar Not at all similar
 Somewhat similar I'm not sure
 Not very similar

4. How strong are our students in each of the following areas of writing? (Matrix: very strong, somewhat strong, not very strong, not at all strong)

- Understanding writing prompts or assignments
 Adapting the way they write for different audiences
 Adapting the way they write to the conventions of different written genres
 Generating ideas for writing
 Developing ideas in writing
 Writing with a consistent tone and diction
 Developing meaningful academic theses/arguments
 Using specific evidence to support their arguments
 Effectively structuring/organizing academic essays
 Paragraphing
 Spelling
 Grammar and punctuation
 Other (please specify) _____

5. What overall weakness do students have? (Check all apply)

- Understanding writing prompts or assignments
 Adapting the way they write for different audiences
 Adapting the way they write to the conventions of different written genres
 Generating ideas for writing
 Developing ideas in writing
 Writing with a consistent tone and diction
 Developing meaningful academic theses/arguments
 Using specific evidence to support their arguments
 Effectively structuring/organizing academic essays
 Paragraphing
 Spelling
 Grammar and punctuation
 Other (please specify) _____

6. How close in quality are the weaker student writing samples and the stronger ones?

- Very close
 Somewhat close
 Not very close
 Not at all close



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7. In what content area(s) are students writing most successfully? (Check all that apply)

- English/language arts
- Foreign/world languages
- Humanities
- History/social studies
- Sciences
- Mathematics
- Visual arts
- Performing arts
- Physical education
- Health education
- Technical education
- Family and consumer education
- Business/marketing
- Other (please specify) _____
- No content area stands out

8. In what content area(s) are students writing least successfully? (Check all that apply)

- English/language arts
- Foreign/world languages
- Humanities
- History/social studies
- Sciences
- Mathematics
- Visual arts
- Performing arts
- Physical education
- Health education
- Technical education
- Family and consumer education
- Business/marketing
- Other (please specify) _____
- No content area stands out

Open Response:

9. What do you think good writing looks like in your content area?

10. What do you think good writing looks like across content areas?