



NCTE 1.4

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



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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?