



Student Background Questionnaire

**2002 Reading/Writing
Grade 8**

SECTION 3

Section 3

In this section, please tell us about yourself and your family. The section has 19 questions. Mark your answers in your booklet. Fill in only **one** oval for each question.

ID100413

1. Which best describes you?

- A White (not Hispanic)
- B Black (not Hispanic)
- C Hispanic ("Hispanic" means someone who is Mexican, Mexican American, Chicano, Puerto Rican, Cuban, or from some other Spanish or Hispanic background.)
- D Asian or Pacific Islander ("Asian or Pacific Islander" means someone who is Chinese, Japanese, Korean, Filipino, Vietnamese, Asian American, or from some other Asian or Pacific Island background.)
- E American Indian or Alaskan Native ("American Indian or Alaskan Native" means someone who is from one of the American Indian tribes, or one of the original people of Alaska.)
- F Other (what?) Write your answer on the line. _____

TB003101

2. If you are Hispanic, what is your Hispanic background?

- A I am not Hispanic.
- B Mexican, Mexican American, or Chicano
- C Puerto Rican
- D Cuban
- E Other Spanish or Hispanic background

VB331333

3. Does your family get a newspaper at least four times a week?

- A Yes
- B No
- C I don't know

VB331334

4. Does your family get any magazines regularly?

- A Yes
- B No
- C I don't know

VB331335

5. About how many books are there in your home?

- A Few (0-10)
- B Enough to fill one shelf (11-25)
- C Enough to fill one bookcase (26-100)
- D Enough to fill several bookcases (more than 100)

VB331336

6. Is there a computer at home that you use?

- A Yes
- B No

Section 3

VB331337

7. Is there an encyclopedia in your home?
It could be a set of books, or it could be
on the computer.

A Yes
B No
C I don't know

VB331338

8. Is there a world atlas in your home? It
could be a book of maps of the world, or
it could be on the computer.

A Yes
B No
C I don't know

TB001101

9. About how many pages a day do you
have to read in school and for
homework?

A 5 or fewer
B 6-10
C 11-15
D 16-20
E More than 20

VB331339

10. How often do you talk about things you
have studied in school with someone in
your family?

A Never or hardly ever
B Once every few weeks
C About once a week
D Two or three times a week
E Every day

VB331340

11. On a school day, about how many hours
do you usually watch TV or videotapes
outside of school?

A None
B 1 hour or less
C 2 or 3 hours
D 4 or 5 hours
E 6 hours or more

VB331441

12. Do your parents know the amount of
time you spend watching TV on a school
day?

A They hardly ever know.
B Sometimes they know.
C Usually they know.
D I'm not sure whether they know.

VB331442

13. Which statement best describes the rules that your parents have about the amount of TV you can watch on school days?

- A My parents have strict rules about how much TV I can watch on school days.
- B My parents don't have strict TV rules, but they don't like me to watch too much TV on school days.
- C My parents don't pay much attention to how much TV I watch on school days.

VB331444

14. Do your parents know whether you finish your homework each day?

- A They hardly ever know.
- B Sometimes they know.
- C Usually they know.
- D I'm not sure whether they know.
- E I never have homework.

VB331445

15. Which statement best describes the rules that your parents have about getting your homework done?

- A My parents have strict rules about homework.
- B My parents don't have strict homework rules, but they expect me to get my homework done.
- C My parents don't pay too much attention to my homework.
- D I never have homework.

VB331447

16. How many days were you absent from school in the last month?

- A None
- B 1 or 2 days
- C 3 or 4 days
- D 5 to 10 days
- E More than 10 days

Section 3

VB330870

17. How far in school did your mother go?

- A She did not finish high school.
- B She graduated from high school.
- C She had some education after high school.
- D She graduated from college.
- E I don't know.

VB330871

18. How far in school did your father go?

- A He did not finish high school.
- B He graduated from high school.
- C He had some education after high school.
- D He graduated from college.
- E I don't know.

VB331451

19. How often do people in your home talk to each other in a language other than English?

- A Never
- B Once in a while
- C About half of the time
- D All or most of the time



SECTION 4

Section 4

This section is about reading and writing. The section has 10 questions. Mark your answers in your booklet. Fill in only **one** oval for each question.

VB345622

1. Please indicate how much you DISAGREE or AGREE with the following statements about reading and writing. Fill in **one** oval on each line.

	Strongly disagree	Disagree	Agree	Strongly agree	
a When I read books, I learn a lot.	A	B	C	D	VB345623
b Reading is one of my favorite activities.	A	B	C	D	VB345624
c Writing things like stories or letters is one of my favorite activities.	A	B	C	D	VB345625
d Writing helps me share my ideas.	A	B	C	D	VB345626

VB379288

2. How often do you do each of the following? Fill in **one** oval on each line.

	Never or hardly ever	Once or twice a month	Once or twice a week	Almost every day	
a Read for fun on your own time	A	B	C	D	VB379289
b Talk with your friends or family about something you have read	A	B	C	D	VB379290
c Write in a private diary or journal on your own time	A	B	C	D	VB379291
d Write stories or poems for fun on your own time	A	B	C	D	VB379292
e Write e-mails to your friends or family	A	B	C	D	VB379293

VB345628

- 3 NOT including reading that you do for school, how often do you spend time reading each of the following types of **fiction**? Fill in **one** oval on each line.

	Never or hardly ever	A few times a year	Once or twice a month	At least once a week	
a Comic books or joke books	A	B	C	D	VB345629
b Fiction books or stories (books or stories about imagined events)	A	B	C	D	VB345630
c Plays	A	B	C	D	VB345631
d Poems	A	B	C	D	VB345632

VB345657

- 4 NOT including reading that you do for school, how often do you spend time reading each of the following types of **non-fiction**? Fill in **one** oval on each line.

	Never or hardly ever	A few times a year	Once or twice a month	At least once a week	
a Biographies or autobiographies	A	B	C	D	VB345658
b Books about science (for example, nature, animals, astronomy)	A	B	C	D	VB345659
c Books about technology (for example, machines, computers)	A	B	C	D	VB345660
d Books about other countries	A	B	C	D	VB345661
e Books about history	A	B	C	D	VB345662
f Books about religion or philosophy	A	B	C	D	VB345663
g Other non-fiction books	A	B	C	D	VB345664

VB345640

5. NOT including reading that you do for school, how often do you spend time reading each of the following types of **articles or stories**? Fill in **one** oval on each line.

	Never or hardly ever	A few times a year	Once or twice a month	At least once a week	
a Articles or stories in a newspaper	A	B	C	D	VB345641
b Articles or stories in a magazine	A	B	C	D	VB345642
c Articles or stories on the Internet	A	B	C	D	VB345643

VB345644

6. Now think about reading and writing you do for school. For your **English** class this year, how often do you do each of the following? Fill in **one** oval on each line.

	Never or hardly ever	A few times a year	Once or twice a month	At least once a week	
a Have a class discussion about something that the whole class has read	A	B	C	D	VB345645
b Work in pairs or small groups to talk about something that you have read	A	B	C	D	VB345646
c Write in a journal about something that you have read for English class	A	B	C	D	VB345647

Section 4

VB345648

7. For your **English** class so far this year, how many times have you done each of the following? Fill in **one** oval on each line.

	Never	Once	2 or 3 times	4 or 5 times	6 or more times	
a Written a report or paper about something that you have read (for example, a book report)	A	B	C	D	E	VB345649
b Made a presentation to the class about something that you have read	A	B	C	D	E	VB345650
c Done a project about something that you have read (for example, written a play, created a web site)	A	B	C	D	E	VB345651

VB345652

8. Think about the classes that you are taking this year. How often do you read something that is **NOT** a textbook for each of the following classes? Fill in **one** oval on each line.

	Never or hardly ever	A few times a year	Once or twice a month	At least once a week	I don't take this class	
a English class (for example, plays, fiction books)	A	B	C	D	E	VB345653
b Science class (for example, science magazines, biographies of scientists)	A	B	C	D	E	VB345654
c Social studies or history class (for example, books about people who lived a long time ago, real letters written a long time ago)	A	B	C	D	E	VB345655
d Math class (for example, math word-games)	A	B	C	D	E	VB345656

VB345715

9. For school this year, how often have you been asked to write long answers to questions on tests or assignments that involved reading?

- A Never
- B Once or twice this year
- C Once or twice a month
- D At least once a week

VB429520

10. When you have reading assignments in school, how often does your teacher do each of the following? Fill in **one** oval on each line.

		Never or hardly ever	Once or twice a month	Once or twice a week	Almost every day	
a	Ask you to explain or support your understanding of what you have read	A	B	C	D	VB429521
b	Ask you to discuss different interpretations of what you have read	A	B	C	D	VB429582



NAEP 2002 Student
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VB345622

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b Reading is one of my favorite activities.	A	B	C	D	VB345624
c Writing things like stories or letters is one of my favorite activities.	A	B	C	D	VB345625
d Writing helps me share my ideas.	A	B	C	D	VB345626

VB379288

- 2 How often do you do each of the following? Fill in **one** oval on each line.

	Never or hardly ever	Once or twice a month	Once or twice a week	Almost every day	
a Read for fun on your own time	A	B	C	D	VB379289
b Talk with your friends or family about something you have read	A	B	C	D	VB379290
c Write in a private diary or journal on your own time	A	B	C	D	VB379291
d Write stories or poems for fun on your own time	A	B	C	D	VB379292
e Write e-mails to your friends or family	A	B	C	D	VB379293

Section 4

VB345665

- 3 How often do you write each of the following **for school** this year? Fill in **one** oval on each line.

	Never or hardly ever	A few times a year	Once or twice a month	At least once a week	
a Thoughts or observations in a log or journal	A	B	C	D	VB345671
b A simple summary of something you have read	A	B	C	D	VB345672
c A report about something that you have studied or researched	A	B	C	D	VB345673
d An essay in which you analyze or interpret something	A	B	C	D	VB345674
e A letter or essay in which you try to convince or persuade others to believe or do something	A	B	C	D	VB345675
f A story (such as a story about a personal or imagined experience)	A	B	C	D	VB345676
g Business writing (such as a résumé or letter to a company)	A	B	C	D	VB345677

VB378055

- 4 When you write a paper or report **for school** this year, how often do you do each of the following? Fill in **one** oval on each line.

	Never or hardly ever	Sometimes	Almost always	
a Brainstorm with other students to decide what to write about	A	B	C	VB378056
b Organize your paper before you write (for example, make an outline, draw a chart)	A	B	C	VB378057
c Make changes to your paper to fix mistakes and improve your paper	A	B	C	VB378058
d Work with other students in pairs or small groups to discuss and improve your paper	A	B	C	VB378059

VB378060

5. When you write a paper or report **for school** this year, how often do you do each of the following? Fill in **one** oval on each line.

		Never or hardly ever	Sometimes	Almost always	
a	Use a computer from the beginning to write the paper or report (for example, use a computer to write the first draft)	A	B	C	VB378061
b	Use a computer to make changes to the paper or report (for example, spell-check, cut and paste)	A	B	C	VB378122
c	Look for information on the Internet to include in the paper or report	A	B	C	VB378124

VB378126

6. Think about the classes that you are taking this year. How often do you write something that is **at least a paragraph in length** for each of the following classes? Include things you write such as journal writing, reports, investigations, and essays. Fill in **one** oval on each line.

		Never or hardly ever	A few times a year	Once or twice a month	At least once a week	
a	English class	A	B	C	D	VB378127
b	Science class	A	B	C	D	VB378128
c	Social studies or history class	A	B	C	D	VB378129
d	Math class	A	B	C	D	VB378130

VB345715

7. For school this year, how often have you been asked to write long answers to questions on tests or assignments that involved reading?
- A Never
 - B Once or twice this year
 - C Once or twice a month
 - D At least once a week

VB378054

8. When you write, how often does your teacher talk to you about what you are writing?
- A Never
 - B Sometimes
 - C Always

VB378131

9. When you write, how often does your teacher ask you to write more than one draft of a paper?
- A Never
 - B Sometimes
 - C Always

VB429583

10. When your teacher grades your writing, how important is each of the following? Fill in **one** oval on each line.

	Not very important	Moderately important	Very important	
a Your spelling, punctuation, and grammar	A	B	C	VB429584
b The way your paper is organized	A	B	C	VB429585
c The quality and creativity of your ideas	A	B	C	VB429586
d The length of your paper	A	B	C	VB429587

