



Writing
Student Questionnaire

2011
Grade 8
Computer-based Assessment

SECTION 3

Section 3

In this section, please tell us about yourself and your family. This section has 12 questions. Select only **one** circle for each question except where instructed otherwise.

1. Are you Hispanic or Latino? Select **one** or **more** squares. VE011049

- ☐ Ⓐ No, I am not Hispanic or Latino.
- ☐ Ⓑ Yes, I am Mexican, Mexican American, or Chicano.
- ☐ Ⓒ Yes, I am Puerto Rican or Puerto Rican American.
- ☐ Ⓓ Yes, I am Cuban or Cuban American.
- ☐ Ⓔ Yes, I am from some other Hispanic or Latino background.

2. Which of the following best describes you? Select **one or more** squares. VE011051

- ☐ Ⓐ White
- ☐ Ⓑ Black or African American
- ☐ Ⓒ Asian
- ☐ Ⓓ American Indian or Alaska Native
- ☐ Ⓔ Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander

Section 3

For the rest of the questions in this section, select only **one** circle for each question.

3. Does your family get any magazines regularly? VE011054
- Ⓐ Yes
- Ⓑ No
- Ⓒ I don't know.
4. About how many books are there in your home? VE011083
- Ⓐ Few (0–10)
- Ⓑ Enough to fill one shelf (11–25)
- Ⓒ Enough to fill one bookcase (26–100)
- Ⓓ Enough to fill several bookcases (more than 100)
5. Is there a computer at home that you use? VE011103
- Ⓐ Yes
- Ⓑ No
6. Is there an encyclopedia in your home? It could be a set of books, or it could be on the computer. VE011107
- Ⓐ Yes
- Ⓑ No
- Ⓒ I don't know.
7. About how many pages a day do you have to read in school and for homework? VE011108
- Ⓐ 5 or fewer
- Ⓑ 6–10
- Ⓒ 11–15
- Ⓓ 16–20
- Ⓔ More than 20
8. How often do you talk about things you have studied in school with someone in your family? VE011109
- Ⓐ Never or hardly ever
- Ⓑ Once every few weeks
- Ⓒ About once a week
- Ⓓ Two or three times a week
- Ⓔ Every day
9. How many days were you absent from school in the last month? VE011111
- Ⓐ None
- Ⓑ 1 or 2 days
- Ⓒ 3 or 4 days
- Ⓓ 5 to 10 days
- Ⓔ More than 10 days

VE011063

10. How far in school did your mother go?

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

VE011064

11. How far in school did your father go?

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

VE011121

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

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



SECTION 4

Section 4

This section has 16 questions. Select only **one** circle for each question except where instructed otherwise.

VE087975

1. In a typical school day, about how much time do you spend on writing assignments of a paragraph or more during each of the following classes? The writing could be on paper or on a computer. Select **one** circle on each line.

	I don't take this class.	0 minutes	Up to 15 minutes	Between 15 and 30 minutes	Between 30 and 60 minutes	More than 60 minutes	
a. English/language arts class	<input type="radio"/> A	<input type="radio"/> B	<input type="radio"/> C	<input type="radio"/> D	<input type="radio"/> E	<input type="radio"/> F	VE087986
b. Social studies class such as history, civics, government, or geography	<input type="radio"/> A	<input type="radio"/> B	<input type="radio"/> C	<input type="radio"/> D	<input type="radio"/> E	<input type="radio"/> F	VE087989
c. Science class	<input type="radio"/> A	<input type="radio"/> B	<input type="radio"/> C	<input type="radio"/> D	<input type="radio"/> E	<input type="radio"/> F	VE087992
d. Mathematics class	<input type="radio"/> A	<input type="radio"/> B	<input type="radio"/> C	<input type="radio"/> D	<input type="radio"/> E	<input type="radio"/> F	VE087994

VE036761

2. In a typical day, about how much time do you spend writing on your own and not for school—for example, writing stories or keeping a journal at home? The writing could be on paper or on a computer.

- ☐ A 0 minutes
- ☐ B Up to 15 minutes
- ☐ C Between 15 and 30 minutes
- ☐ D Between 30 and 60 minutes
- ☐ E More than 60 minutes

Section 4

VE088001

3. How often do you write, in and out of school, for each of the following activities? Include only the writing that you do on paper. Select **one** circle on each line.

	Never or hardly ever	Once or twice a month	Once or twice a week	Every day or almost every day	
a. Writing for school assignments (for example, reports, essays, or letters)	(A)	(B)	(C)	(D)	VE088004
b. Writing that is not part of your schoolwork	(A)	(B)	(C)	(D)	VE088005

VE126298

4. For school this year, how often do you write for each of the following purposes? The writing could be on paper or on a computer. Select **one** circle on each line.

	Never or hardly ever	A few times a year	Once or twice a month	At least once a week	
a. To explain something that you know or have read	(A)	(B)	(C)	(D)	VE126301
b. To convince or persuade someone	(A)	(B)	(C)	(D)	VE126302
c. To convey a real or imagined experience	(A)	(B)	(C)	(D)	VE126304

VE088007

5. For school this year, how often do you write for each of the following audiences? The writing could be on paper or on a computer. Select **one** circle on each line.

	Never or hardly ever	A few times a year	Once or twice a month	At least once a week	
a. Family members	<input type="radio"/> A	<input type="radio"/> B	<input type="radio"/> C	<input type="radio"/> D	VE088009
b. School officials	<input type="radio"/> A	<input type="radio"/> B	<input type="radio"/> C	<input type="radio"/> D	VE088012
c. Other students	<input type="radio"/> A	<input type="radio"/> B	<input type="radio"/> C	<input type="radio"/> D	VE088013
d. Community organizations, government officials, or businesses	<input type="radio"/> A	<input type="radio"/> B	<input type="radio"/> C	<input type="radio"/> D	VE450490

VE088022

6. For school this year, how often do you write each of the following? The writing could be on paper or on a computer. Select **one** circle on each line.

	Never or hardly ever	A few times a year	Once or twice a month	At least once a week	
a. Informational essays	<input type="radio"/> A	<input type="radio"/> B	<input type="radio"/> C	<input type="radio"/> D	VE107515
b. Letters	<input type="radio"/> A	<input type="radio"/> B	<input type="radio"/> C	<input type="radio"/> D	VE088029
c. Speeches	<input type="radio"/> A	<input type="radio"/> B	<input type="radio"/> C	<input type="radio"/> D	VE088030
d. Personal essays	<input type="radio"/> A	<input type="radio"/> B	<input type="radio"/> C	<input type="radio"/> D	VE088031
e. Stories	<input type="radio"/> A	<input type="radio"/> B	<input type="radio"/> C	<input type="radio"/> D	VE088032
f. Poems	<input type="radio"/> A	<input type="radio"/> B	<input type="radio"/> C	<input type="radio"/> D	VE088033
g. Journal entries	<input type="radio"/> A	<input type="radio"/> B	<input type="radio"/> C	<input type="radio"/> D	VE088035
h. Book reviews	<input type="radio"/> A	<input type="radio"/> B	<input type="radio"/> C	<input type="radio"/> D	VE450485
i. Explanations of how you solved a mathematics or science problem	<input type="radio"/> A	<input type="radio"/> B	<input type="radio"/> C	<input type="radio"/> D	VE088037

Section 4

VE126329

7. Did you use the paper and pencil you were given to make notes, plan, or organize your writing for this test? Select **one** circle on each line.

Yes **No**

a. For the first writing task on this test

(A)

(B)

VE126345

b. For the second writing task on this test

(A)

(B)

VE126346

VE126358

8. Did you use the computer to make notes, plan, or organize your writing for this test? Select **one** circle on each line.

Yes **No**

a. For the first writing task on this test

(A)

(B)

VE126360

b. For the second writing task on this test

(A)

(B)

VE126361

VE036314

9. For school this year, how often do you use each of the following when you write a paper or report? Select **one** circle on each line.

**Never or
hardly
ever**

Sometimes

**Very
often**

**Always
or almost
always**

a. Use the Internet to look for information to include in the paper or report

(A)

(B)

(C)

(D)

VE036318

b. 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)

(D)

VE036315

c. Use a computer to make changes to the paper or report (for example, spell-check or cut and paste)

(A)

(B)

(C)

(D)

VE036316

d. Use a computer to complete your writing

(A)

(B)

(C)

(D)

VE088274

VE088349

10. How often do you use a computer, in and out of school, for each of the following activities? Select **one** circle on each line.

	Never or hardly ever	Once or twice a month	Once or twice a week	Every day or almost every day	
a. Writing for school assignments (for example, reports, essays, or letters)	<input type="radio"/> A	<input type="radio"/> B	<input type="radio"/> C	<input type="radio"/> D	VE107503
b. Writing that is not part of your schoolwork	<input type="radio"/> A	<input type="radio"/> B	<input type="radio"/> C	<input type="radio"/> D	VE107504
c. Writing e-mails	<input type="radio"/> A	<input type="radio"/> B	<input type="radio"/> C	<input type="radio"/> D	VE107505
d. Writing using the Internet (for example, for blogs or personal web pages)	<input type="radio"/> A	<input type="radio"/> B	<input type="radio"/> C	<input type="radio"/> D	VE107507

VE036713

11. In a typical week, about how many pages do you write for English/language arts homework?

- ☐ A None
☐ B Up to one page
☐ C One to three pages
☐ D Four to five pages
☐ E More than five pages

Section 4

VE035611

12. Please indicate how much you disagree or agree with the following statements about writing. Select **one** circle on each line.

- | | Strongly disagree | Disagree | Agree | Strongly agree | |
|--|---------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|----------|
| a. Writing is one of my favorite activities. | <input type="radio"/> (A) | <input type="radio"/> (B) | <input type="radio"/> (C) | <input type="radio"/> (D) | VE035613 |
| b. Writing allows me to express my ideas. | <input type="radio"/> (A) | <input type="radio"/> (B) | <input type="radio"/> (C) | <input type="radio"/> (D) | VE035628 |

VE110951

13. If you had a choice, which of the following would you most prefer to write?

- ☐ (A) Stories
- ☐ (B) Letters or e-mails
- ☐ (C) Plays
- ☐ (D) Poems
- ☐ (E) Song lyrics
- ☐ (F) Comic books

VE401773

14. How hard was this test compared to most other tests you have taken this year in school?

- ☐ (A) Easier than other tests
- ☐ (B) About as hard as other tests
- ☐ (C) Harder than other tests
- ☐ (D) Much harder than other tests

VE401776

15. How hard did you try on this test compared to how hard you tried on most other tests you have taken this year in school?

- Ⓐ Not as hard as on other tests
- Ⓑ About as hard as on other tests
- Ⓒ Harder than on other tests
- Ⓓ Much harder than on other tests

VE401779

16. How important was it to you to do well on this test?

- Ⓐ Not very important
- Ⓑ Somewhat important
- Ⓒ Important
- Ⓓ Very important

