

APPENDIX A

Student Survey

St. John's University
Northeastern University
The University of Oklahoma

SENIORS REFLECT ON THEIR MEANINGFUL WRITING EXPERIENCES: A CROSS-INSTITUTIONAL STUDY

I'm a student at _____. (REQUIRED)

St. John's University
Northeastern University
The University of Oklahoma

REQUEST TO PARTICIPATE IN RESEARCH

Consent Form For St. John's University

I would like to invite you to participate in a web-based online survey. The survey is part of a research study whose purpose is to gain an understanding of the elements that college students believe make writing tasks meaningful. In addition to St. John's University students at Northeastern University in Massachusetts and at the University of Oklahoma are also being asked about their meaningful writing experiences. This survey should take about 20 minutes to complete.

I am asking you to participate in this study because you are scheduled to graduate St. John's University in 2012. You must be at least 18 years old to take this survey.

The decision to participate in this research project is voluntary. You do not have to participate and you can refuse to answer any question. Even if you begin the web-based online survey, you can stop at any time.

There are no foreseeable risks or discomforts to you for taking part in this study.

There are no direct benefits to you from participating in this study. However, your responses will give you an opportunity to reflect on your undergraduate education and the role of writing in that experience. Your responses will also potentially help improve the teaching of writing at St. John's and beyond.

All survey participants will be enrolled in a lottery to win \$50 meal credit applied to your StormCard. Four \$50 meal credits will be awarded.

Your part in this study is anonymous to the researcher(s). However, because of the nature of web based surveys, it is possible that respondents could be identified by the IP address or other electronic record associated with the response. Neither the researcher nor anyone involved with this survey will be capturing those data. Any reports or publications based on this research will use only group data and will not identify you or any individual as being affiliated with this project.

If you have any questions about this study, please feel free to contact Dr. Anne Ellen Geller at gellera@stjohns.edu, the Principal Investigator.

If you have any questions regarding your rights as a research participant, please contact the St. John's University Institutional Review Board (IRB), Newman Hall, Room 108, Queens Campus, 718-990-1440. You may call anonymously if you wish.

Please print out a copy of this consent form for your records.

Thank you for your time.

Dr. Anne Ellen Geller Department
of English St. John's University

I have read and understood the information above and am granting my informed consent for my participation in this research. (REQUIRED)

Yes, I agree

No, I decline

Consent Form for Northeastern University

I would like to invite you to participate in a web-based online survey. The survey is part of a research study whose purpose is to gain an understanding of the elements that college students believe make writing tasks meaningful. In addition to Northeastern, students at St. John's University in New York and at the University of Oklahoma are also being asked about their meaningful writing experiences. This survey should take about 20 minutes to complete.

I am asking you to participate in this study because you are in your final semester before graduation at Northeastern. You must be at least 18 years old to take this survey.

The decision to participate in this research project is voluntary. You do not have to participate and you can refuse to answer any question. Even if you begin the web-based online survey, you can stop at any time.

There are no foreseeable risks or discomforts to you for taking part in this study.

There are no direct benefits to you from participating in this study. However, your responses will give you an opportunity to reflect on your undergraduate education and the role of writing in that experience. Your responses will also potentially help improve the teaching of writing at Northeastern and beyond.

All survey participants will be enrolled in a lottery to win a \$50 Amazon gift card. Four total gift cards will be awarded

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If you have any questions regarding electronic privacy, please feel free to contact Mark Nardone, IT Security Analyst via phone at 617-373-7901, or via email at privacy@neu.edu.

If you have any questions about this study, please feel free to contact Neal Lerner at n.lerner@neu.edu, the Principal Investigator.

If you have any questions regarding your rights as a research participant, please contact Nan C. Regina, Director, Human Subject Research Protection, 960 Renaissance Park, Northeastern University, Boston, MA 02115. Tel: 617-373-7570, Email: irb@neu.edu. You may call anonymously if you wish.

Please print out a copy of this consent form for your records.

Thank you for your time.

Dr. Neal Lerner Department of English
Northeastern University

I have read and understood the information above and am granting my informed consent for my participation in this research. (REQUIRED)

Yes, I agree

No, I decline

Consent Form for The University of Oklahoma

I would like to invite you to participate in a web-based online survey. The survey is part of a research study whose purpose is to gain an understanding of the elements that college students believe make writing tasks meaningful. In addition to OU, students at St. John's University in New York and at the Northeastern University in Boston are also being asked about their meaningful writing experiences. This survey should take about 20 minutes to complete.

I am asking you to participate in this study because you are in your final semester before graduation at OU. You must be at least 18 years old to take this survey.

The decision to participate in this research project is voluntary. You do not have to participate and you can refuse to answer any question. Even if you begin the web-based online survey, you can stop and exit at any time.

There are no foreseeable risks or discomforts to you for taking part in this study.

There are no direct benefits to you from participating in this study. However, your responses will give you an opportunity to reflect on your undergraduate education and the role of writing in that experience. Your responses will also potentially help improve the teaching of writing at OU and beyond.

All survey participants will be enrolled in a drawing to win a \$50 Amazon gift card. Four total gift cards will be awarded.

Your part in this study is anonymous to the researcher(s). However, because of the nature of web based surveys, it is possible that respondents could be identified by the IP address or other electronic record associated with the response. Neither the researcher nor anyone involved with this survey will be capturing those data. Any reports or publications based on this research will use only group data and will not identify you or any individual as being affiliated with this project.

If you have any questions regarding electronic privacy, please feel free to contact Mario Rosas: mrosas@ou.edu.

If you have any questions about this study, please feel free to contact Michele Eodice, the Principal Investigator: phone: (405) 325-2937 or via email: meodice@ou.edu.

If you have any questions regarding your rights as a research participant, please contact the Institutional Review Board by phone: (405) 325-8110 or via email: irb@ou.edu.

By clicking on the survey link below you are indicating that you consent to participate in this study. Please print out a copy of this consent form for your records.

Thank you for your time.

Michele Eodice

THE UNIVERSITY OF OKLAHOMA

I have read and understood the information above and am granting my informed consent for my participation in this research. (REQUIRED)

Yes, I agree

No, I decline

ST. JOHN'S UNIVERSITY-COLLEGE/SCHOOL: (REQUIRED)

St. John's College of Liberal Arts and Sciences

The School of Education

The Peter J. Tobin College of Business

College of Pharmacy and Allied Health Professions

College of Professional Studies

Other

NORTHEASTERN UNIVERSITY-COLLEGE: (REQUIRED)

College of Arts, Media and Design

College of Business Administration

College of Computer and Information Science

College of Engineering

Bouvé College of Health Sciences

College of Professional Studies

College of Science

College of Social Sciences and Humanities

Other

THE UNIVERSITY OF OKLAHOMA-COLLEGE: (REQUIRED)

College of Allied Health

College of Architecture

College of Arts and Sciences

College of Atmospheric & Geographic Sciences

Michael F. Price College of Business

Mewbourne College of Earth and Energy

Jeannine Rainbolt College of Education

College of Engineering

Weitzenhoffer Family College of Fine Arts
Gaylord College of Journalism and Mass Communication
College of Liberal Studies
College of Nursing
College of Pharmacy
College of Public Health
Other

DEMOGRAPHIC INFORMATION

RACE/ETHNICITY:

American Indian/Alaskan Native
Asian
Black/African American
Hispanic
Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander
White/Caucasian
Two or more races
Unknown
Other:

GENDER:

Male Female

AGE:

18–21
22–25
26–29
30 and over

WHAT IS YOUR?

Major(s):
Minor(s):

OVERALL GPA:

MAJOR GPA:**LANGUAGE(S) IN WHICH YOU ARE
FLUENT (CHECK ALL THAT APPLY):**

| | <i>Reading</i> | <i>Writing</i> | <i>Speaking</i> |
|-----------------------------|----------------|----------------|-----------------|
| English | | | |
| Arabic | | | |
| Chinese | | | |
| French | | | |
| German | | | |
| Japanese | | | |
| Korean | | | |
| Portugese | | | |
| Russian | | | |
| Spanish | | | |
| Other | | | |
| If 'Other,' please specify. | | | |

In this research, we are exploring the following questions:

1. What are the qualities of meaningful writing experiences as reported by university seniors at three different types of institutions?
2. What might seniors' perceptions of their meaningful/valuable writing experiences tell us about students' learning?

In this survey, we ask a combination of open-ended and scaled questions to explore a writing project you believe was "meaningful"—either a project that was a part of coursework or a project completed for purposes outside of class. A writing "project" could include many types of texts, whether completed by you alone or in collaboration with other students. A project could also include multi-media or visual "texts."

We will also ask you at the end of the survey if you are willing to be contacted for a follow-up one-to-one interview and focus group so that we might learn more about your experience.

We believe completing this survey will give you an opportunity to reflect on your undergraduate education and the role of writing in that experience. It will also potentially improve the teaching of writing and contribute to what is known about how students make meaning of their undergraduate experiences and their writing experiences.

1. Think of a writing project from your undergraduate career up to this point that was meaningful for you and answer the following questions:
 - 1.1 Describe the writing project you found meaningful.
 - 1.2 What made that project meaningful for you?
 - 1.3 For the project you've described as meaningful, had you previously written anything similar?

| | |
|-----|----|
| Yes | No |
|-----|----|
 - 1.3a If YES, describe that previous writing project.
 - 1.4 For the project you've described as meaningful, are there ways in which this writing project might contribute to the kinds of writing you hope to do in the future (for example, in your career or professional life)?

| | |
|-----|----|
| Yes | No |
|-----|----|
 - 1.4a If YES, please describe and be specific.
 - 1.4b If NO, please describe and be specific.
2. Considering the writing project you identified as meaningful, check ANY of the following items that describe the process you used to write it:
 - Brainstormed (listed ideas, mapped concepts, prepared an outline, etc.) to develop your ideas before you started drafting your writing project
 - Talked with your instructor or a supervisor/mentor to develop your ideas before you started drafting your writing project
 - Talked with a classmate, friend, or family member to develop your ideas before you started drafting your writing project
 - Received feedback from your instructor or a supervisor/mentor about a draft before finalizing your writing project
 - Received feedback from a classmate, friend, or family member about a draft before finalizing your writing project
 - Visited an on-campus writing or tutoring center to get help with your writing project before finalizing it
 - Used an online tutoring service to get help with your writing project before finalizing it
 - Proofread your final draft for errors before finalizing it
 - Had an opportunity to reflect on your writing process while developing or finalizing the writing project
3. For the writing project you've identified as meaningful, check ANY of the following items that describe the kind of writing you did:
 - Narrate or describe one of your own experiences
 - Summarize something you read, such as articles, books, or online publications

- Analyze or evaluate something you read, researched, or observed
- Describe your methods or findings related to data you collected in lab or field work, a survey project, etc.
- Argue a position using evidence and reasoning
- Explain in writing the meaning of numerical or statistical data
- Write in the style and format of a specific field (engineering, history, psychology, etc.)
- Include drawings, tables, photos, screen shots, or other visual content into your written assignment
- Create the project with multimedia (web page, poster, slide presentation such as PowerPoint, etc.)
- Include the project as part of a portfolio that collects written work you completed for a class
- Include the project as part of a portfolio that collects written work from more than one class
- Submit the project to a student or professional publication (magazine, journal, newspaper, collection of student work, etc.)

3.1 Feel free to add any additional comments that describe the kind of writing you did, including any information about your project that was not fully covered by these questions.

4. For the writing project you have described as meaningful, did you work on it independently or with others (i.e., a collaboratively written or group project)?

- Written independently
- Written as part of a group project

5. For the writing project you have chosen as meaningful, was it written as a course assignment or was it not connected to a course? (REQUIRED)

- As a course assignment
- Not connected to a course (e.g., for yourself, for a club, or during employment)

6. If the writing project you identified as meaningful was completed as a part of coursework, name the course and the instructor:

6.1 Title of course:

6.2 Instructor:

6.3 Department offering course:

6.4 I took this class (semester): Fall Spring Summer

6.5 I took this class (year):

 2008 2009 2010 2011 2012

Other:

- 6.6 I was:
- Freshman Sophomore Middler Junior Senior
7. For course for which you wrote this project, was that course (Check ALL that apply).
- In your major
In the Core or General Education courses at your university
A required course
An elective
8. What was the course format?
- Online
Hybrid/Blended
Campus classroom
Other:
9. If the writing project you identified as meaningful was completed as a part of coursework, check ANY of the following items that describe the role your instructor played:
- Provided clear instructions describing what they wanted you to do
Explained in advance what they wanted you to learn
Explained in advance the criteria they would use to grade your writing project
Provided a sample of a completed project written by the instructor or a student
Asked you to do short pieces of writing that they did not grade
Asked you to give feedback to a classmate about a draft or outline the classmate had written
Asked you to write with classmates to complete a group project
Asked you to address a real or imagined audience such as your classmates, a politician, non-experts, etc.
- 9.1 Feel free to add any additional comments that describe the kind of writing you did, including any information about your project that was not fully covered by these questions.

As a follow up to this survey the research team for this project hopes to conduct brief (no more than ½ hour) interviews with those who have responded to this survey in order to learn more about the meaningful writing experience(s) described here. If you are willing to be contacted for an interview, please provide contact information where we might reach you. Your name and contact information will be reported to the research team separately from your survey response in order to protect your anonymity.

Would you like to be contacted for a brief follow-up interview? (RE-REQUIRED)

Yes

No

How should we contact you?

Name:

By email:

By phone:

Thank you for participating in the survey.

If you are interested in participating for a drawing, please click on the link below to provide your e-mail address.

E-MAIL ADDRESS FOR DRAWING

Please allow 6–8 weeks for an e-mail address to be randomly selected, the participant will be contacted to provide additional information in order to receive the gift card.

Your e-mail address for the drawing will be sent to a database not associated with the survey, to maintain the anonymity of your responses.

Thank you for your time.