

**Writing**  
**Teacher Background Questionnaire**

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**2010**  
**Grade 8**

# TEACHER QUESTIONNAIRE

## GRADE 8 – WRITING

During the 2009–2010 school year, a sample of students across the country, including some of your eighth-grade students, will participate in the National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP). The current assessment focuses on achievement in civics, geography, U.S. history, and writing. To investigate the relationship between students' achievement and various school, teacher, and home factors, NAEP is also collecting information from schools and teachers.

This questionnaire collects information about teachers' backgrounds and instructional practices as they relate to students selected for the assessment. Since you teach writing to one or more students selected for the assessment, you are being asked to answer questions about these students' classes.

Obviously, only you can provide this important information. So, although we realize that you are very busy, we urge you to complete this questionnaire as accurately as possible. The information you provide is being collected for research purposes only and will be kept strictly confidential.

NAEP is authorized under Public Law 107–110. While your participation is voluntary, your responses to these questions are needed to make this survey accurate and complete.

### Instructions

This questionnaire contains two parts.

Part I – Background, Education, and Training

Part II – Classroom Organization and Instruction–Writing

**You should complete all parts. Please record your answers online, following the instructions on the front cover. If you do not have Internet access, please answer questions directly on this questionnaire by filling in the appropriate ovals.**

If you do answer questions directly on this questionnaire, please return the questionnaire to your school's NAEP coordinator when you are finished.

**THANK YOU VERY MUCH.**

# Writing Teacher Questionnaire – Grade 8

## Part I: Background, Education, and Training

For some questions on this survey, you are asked to fill in numbers. For these questions, please print the appropriate number in each of the boxes provided. Please print legibly with a No. 2 pencil. Keep all printing within the boxes, and erase any stray marks.

Using one number per box, fill in every box. For example, 95 students would be written as:

0 9 5

1. Are you Hispanic or Latino? Fill in **one or more ovals**.

VB331330

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

2. Which of the following best describes you? Fill in **one or more ovals**.

VB331331

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

**Questions 3–4.** For the next two questions, include any full-time teaching assignments, part-time teaching assignments, and long-term substitute assignments, but not student teaching.

VB337243

3. Counting this year, how many years have you worked as an elementary or secondary teacher? If less than 4 months total experience, enter “00.”

Years

VB380355

4. Counting this year, how many years have you taught reading, writing, or language arts in grades 6 through 12? If less than 4 months total experience, enter “00.”

Years

VC309863

5. Did you enter teaching through an alternative certification program?

(An alternative program is a program that was designed to expedite the transition of non-teachers to a teaching career, for example, a state, district, or university alternative certification program.)

Yes

No









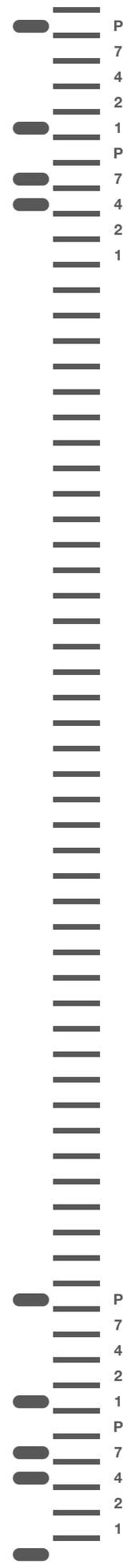


VB345619

12. Did you have a major, minor, or special emphasis in any of the following subjects as part of your **graduate** coursework? Fill in **one** oval on each line.

- |   | Yes,<br>a major | Yes, a minor<br>or special<br>emphasis | No |          |
|---|-----------------|--|----|----------|
| a. Reading, language arts, or literacy education            | Ⓐ               | Ⓑ                                      | Ⓒ  | VB378395 |
| b. English  | Ⓐ               | Ⓑ                                      | Ⓒ  | VB378396 |
| c. Other language arts-related subject                      | Ⓐ               | Ⓑ                                      | Ⓒ  | VB378398 |
| d. Elementary or secondary education                        | Ⓐ               | Ⓑ                                      | Ⓒ  | VB595190 |
| e. Special education (including students with disabilities) | Ⓐ               | Ⓑ                                      | Ⓒ  | VE113560 |
| f. English-language learning                                | Ⓐ               | Ⓑ                                      | Ⓒ  | VE113562 |

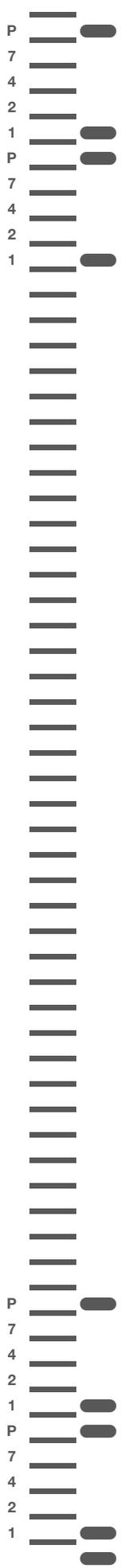




VB482598

14. During the last **two years**, did you participate in or lead any of the following professional development activities **related to the teaching of reading, writing, or literature**? Fill in **one** oval on each line.

- |  | <b>Yes</b>              | <b>No</b>               |          |
|--|-------------------------|-------------------------|----------|
| a. College course taken after your first certification   | <input type="radio"/> A | <input type="radio"/> B | VB482599 |
| b. Workshop or training session  | <input type="radio"/> A | <input type="radio"/> B | VB482600 |
| c. Conference or professional association meeting  | <input type="radio"/> A | <input type="radio"/> B | VB482601 |
| d. Observational visit to another school   | <input type="radio"/> A | <input type="radio"/> B | VB482642 |
| e. Mentoring and/or peer observation and coaching as part of a formal arrangement                    | <input type="radio"/> A | <input type="radio"/> B | VB482643 |
| f. Committee or task force focusing on curriculum, instruction, or student assessment                | <input type="radio"/> A | <input type="radio"/> B | VB482644 |
| g. Regularly scheduled discussion or study group   | <input type="radio"/> A | <input type="radio"/> B | VB482645 |
| h. Teacher collaborative or network, such as one organized by an outside agency or over the Internet | <input type="radio"/> A | <input type="radio"/> B | VB482646 |
| i. Individual or collaborative research  | <input type="radio"/> A | <input type="radio"/> B | VB482647 |
| j. Independent reading on a regular basis—for example, educational journals, books, or the Internet  | <input type="radio"/> A | <input type="radio"/> B | VB482648 |
| k. Co-teaching/team teaching   | <input type="radio"/> A | <input type="radio"/> B | VB482649 |
| l. Consultation with language arts specialist  | <input type="radio"/> A | <input type="radio"/> B | VB482650 |



15. During the last **two years**, have you received training from any source in any of the following areas? Fill in **one** oval on each line. VC191232

	No, I am already proficient.	No, I have not.	Yes	
a. Basic computer training	Ⓐ	Ⓑ	Ⓒ	VC191233
b. Software applications	Ⓐ	Ⓑ	Ⓒ	VC191234
c. Use of the Internet	Ⓐ	Ⓑ	Ⓒ	VC191235
d. Use of other technology—for example, satellite access, wireless Web, interactive video, closed-circuit television, videoconferencing	Ⓐ	Ⓑ	Ⓒ	VC191237
e. Integration of computers and other technology into classroom instruction	Ⓐ	Ⓑ	Ⓒ	VC191238

16. Do you have special leadership responsibilities for reading or language arts education at your school—for example, responsibilities as a mentor teacher, lead teacher, resource specialist, departmental chair, or master teacher? VB595191

- Ⓐ Yes
- Ⓑ No

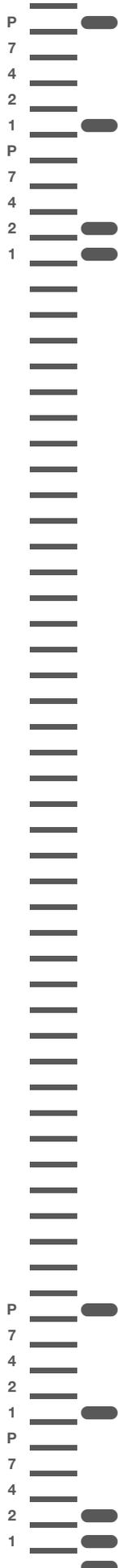
17. During the last **two years**, have you participated in activities associated with school improvement efforts directed at issues such as adequate yearly progress and state accountability standards? VC304724

- Ⓐ Yes
- Ⓑ No

## Part II: Classroom Organization and Instruction – Writing

The following questions ask about the organization of your classroom for writing instruction. If you teach more than one eighth-grade class, please choose a single class to use as the basis for answering the questions about classroom organization.

- VE217585
1. To what extent do you use each of the following technological resources for writing instruction? Fill in **one** oval on each line.
- |   | Not at<br>all | Small<br>extent | Moderate<br>extent | Large<br>extent |          |
|---|---------------|-----------------|--------------------|-----------------|----------|
| a. Desktop computer   | Ⓐ             | Ⓑ               | Ⓒ                  | Ⓓ               | VE217586 |
| b. Laptop computer  | Ⓐ             | Ⓑ               | Ⓒ                  | Ⓓ               | VE217587 |
| c. Tablet PC (notebook-like computer that allows users to write or draw through the use of a stylus or touch-screen)      | Ⓐ             | Ⓑ               | Ⓒ                  | Ⓓ               | VE217588 |
| d. Hand-held computer (e.g., personal digital assistant)  | Ⓐ             | Ⓑ               | Ⓒ                  | Ⓓ               | VE217589 |
| e. Digital projector (device that connects to a computer to display presentations or demonstrate lessons, such as an LCD) | Ⓐ             | Ⓑ               | Ⓒ                  | Ⓓ               | VE217590 |
| f. CD-ROM, DVD-ROM  | Ⓐ             | Ⓑ               | Ⓒ                  | Ⓓ               | VE217591 |
| g. Online software  | Ⓐ             | Ⓑ               | Ⓒ                  | Ⓓ               | VE217592 |
| h. Digital music device (pocket-sized music player used to listen to or create audio files, such as an MP3 player)        | Ⓐ             | Ⓑ               | Ⓒ                  | Ⓓ               | VE217593 |
| i. Cable/satellite/closed-circuit television  | Ⓐ             | Ⓑ               | Ⓒ                  | Ⓓ               | VE217594 |
| j. Online content (e.g., Podcasts or streaming videos)  | Ⓐ             | Ⓑ               | Ⓒ                  | Ⓓ               | VE217595 |



VE087389

2. Which statement best describes computer availability for your writing instruction?

- Ⓐ There is no computer for student use.
- Ⓑ There is one computer shared by all students.
- Ⓒ More than three students share one computer.
- Ⓓ Two or three students share one computer.
- Ⓔ Each student has a computer.

VE087398

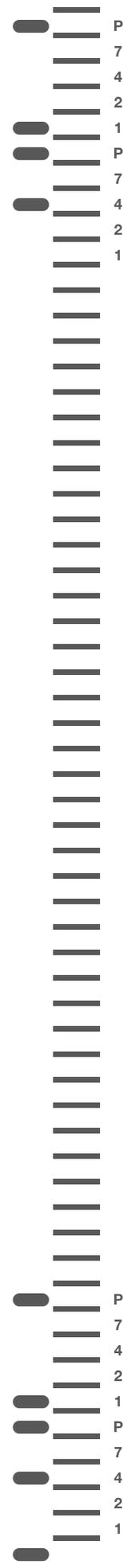
3. Do you have access to the Internet when you teach writing to your students?

- Ⓐ Yes, always
- Ⓑ Yes, sometimes
- Ⓒ No

VE088134

4. How often do you ask your students to do the following when you ask them to write about something? Fill in **one** oval on each line.

	Never or hardly ever	Sometimes	Very often	Always or almost always	
a. Explain (for example, provide information about a topic or steps in a process)	<input type="radio"/> Ⓐ	<input type="radio"/> Ⓑ	<input type="radio"/> Ⓒ	<input type="radio"/> Ⓓ	VE088137
b. Persuade (for example, convince someone to do something)	<input type="radio"/> Ⓐ	<input type="radio"/> Ⓑ	<input type="radio"/> Ⓒ	<input type="radio"/> Ⓓ	VE088140
c. Convey experience (for example, write about personal or imagined experiences)	<input type="radio"/> Ⓐ	<input type="radio"/> Ⓑ	<input type="radio"/> Ⓒ	<input type="radio"/> Ⓓ	VE088141



VE088048

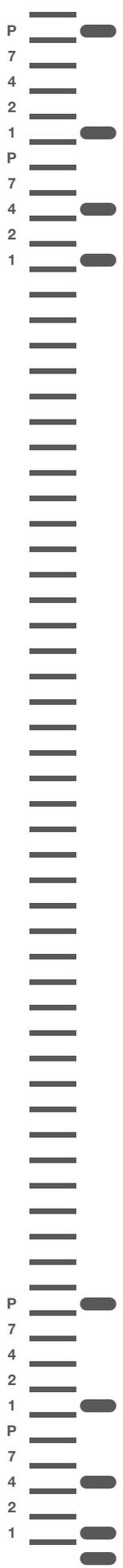
5. How often do you ask your students to write to each of the following audiences? Fill in **one** oval on each line.

	Never or hardly ever	A few times a year	Once or twice a month	At least once a week	
a. Family members	Ⓐ	Ⓑ	Ⓒ	Ⓓ	VE088059
b. School officials	Ⓐ	Ⓑ	Ⓒ	Ⓓ	VE088062
c. Other students	Ⓐ	Ⓑ	Ⓒ	Ⓓ	VE088085
d. Community organizations	Ⓐ	Ⓑ	Ⓒ	Ⓓ	VE088087
e. Government officials	Ⓐ	Ⓑ	Ⓒ	Ⓓ	VE088088
f. Businesses	Ⓐ	Ⓑ	Ⓒ	Ⓓ	VE088091
g. Other (please specify):	Ⓐ	Ⓑ	Ⓒ	Ⓓ	VE088093

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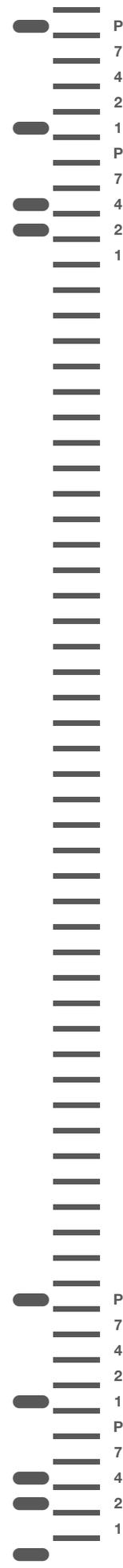


6. How often do you ask your students to write the following? Fill in **one** oval on each line. VE088149

	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	VE112054
b. Letters	<input type="radio"/> A	<input type="radio"/> B	<input type="radio"/> C	<input type="radio"/> D	VE088152
c. Speeches	<input type="radio"/> A	<input type="radio"/> B	<input type="radio"/> C	<input type="radio"/> D	VE088154
d. Personal essays	<input type="radio"/> A	<input type="radio"/> B	<input type="radio"/> C	<input type="radio"/> D	VE088155
e. Stories	<input type="radio"/> A	<input type="radio"/> B	<input type="radio"/> C	<input type="radio"/> D	VE088156
f. Poems	<input type="radio"/> A	<input type="radio"/> B	<input type="radio"/> C	<input type="radio"/> D	VE088157
g. Journal entries	<input type="radio"/> A	<input type="radio"/> B	<input type="radio"/> C	<input type="radio"/> D	VE088158
h. Editorials	<input type="radio"/> A	<input type="radio"/> B	<input type="radio"/> C	<input type="radio"/> D	VE088159
i. Book reviews	<input type="radio"/> A	<input type="radio"/> B	<input type="radio"/> C	<input type="radio"/> D	VE088160
j. Multistep instructions	<input type="radio"/> A	<input type="radio"/> B	<input type="radio"/> C	<input type="radio"/> D	VE088161
k. Song lyrics	<input type="radio"/> A	<input type="radio"/> B	<input type="radio"/> C	<input type="radio"/> D	VE088163

7. How often do you allow your students to choose the form (e.g., stories, poems, essays) they use in a writing assignment? VE088164

- A Never
- B Less than half of the time
- C About half of the time
- D More than half of the time



VE088166

8. Overall, what percentage of your instructional time teaching writing is spent on each of the following? Fill in **one** oval on each line.

	0%	1-5%	6-10%	11-25%	26-50%	51-75%	76-90%	Over 90%	
a. Development of ideas	<input type="radio"/> A	<input type="radio"/> B	<input type="radio"/> C	<input type="radio"/> D	<input type="radio"/> E	<input type="radio"/> F		<input type="radio"/> H	VE088173
b. Organization of ideas	<input type="radio"/> A	<input type="radio"/> B	<input type="radio"/> C	<input type="radio"/> D	<input type="radio"/> E	<input type="radio"/> F		<input type="radio"/> H	VE088174
c. Effectiveness of expression (e.g., sentence variety, word choice, tone)	<input type="radio"/> A <input type="radio"/> G	<input type="radio"/> B <input type="radio"/> G	<input type="radio"/> C <input type="radio"/> G	<input type="radio"/> D <input type="radio"/> G	<input type="radio"/> E <input type="radio"/> G	<input type="radio"/> F <input type="radio"/> G		<input type="radio"/> H <input type="radio"/> G	VE088175
d. Mechanics and conventions (e.g., spelling, grammar, punctuation)	<input type="radio"/> A <input type="radio"/> G	<input type="radio"/> B <input type="radio"/> G	<input type="radio"/> C <input type="radio"/> G	<input type="radio"/> D <input type="radio"/> G	<input type="radio"/> E <input type="radio"/> G	<input type="radio"/> F <input type="radio"/> G		<input type="radio"/> H <input type="radio"/> G	VE088177
e. Other (please specify):	<input type="radio"/> A <input type="radio"/> G	<input type="radio"/> B <input type="radio"/> G	<input type="radio"/> C <input type="radio"/> G	<input type="radio"/> D <input type="radio"/> G	<input type="radio"/> E <input type="radio"/> G	<input type="radio"/> F <input type="radio"/> G		<input type="radio"/> H <input type="radio"/> G	VE112108

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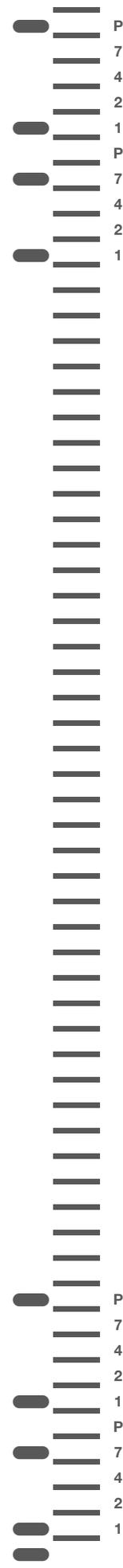
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VE088199

9. During the past two years, how often did you participate in any of the following professional development activities related to the teaching of writing? 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. College course taken after your first certification	<input type="radio"/> A	<input type="radio"/> B	<input type="radio"/> C	<input type="radio"/> D	VE088201
b. Conference or professional association meeting	<input type="radio"/> A	<input type="radio"/> B	<input type="radio"/> C	<input type="radio"/> D	VE088203
c. Observational visit to another school or classroom	<input type="radio"/> A	<input type="radio"/> B	<input type="radio"/> C	<input type="radio"/> D	VE088207
d. Mentoring and/or peer observation and coaching	<input type="radio"/> A	<input type="radio"/> B	<input type="radio"/> C	<input type="radio"/> D	VE088210
e. Writing activities that are a part of national writing initiatives	<input type="radio"/> A <input type="radio"/> G	<input type="radio"/> B <input type="radio"/> G	<input type="radio"/> C <input type="radio"/> G	<input type="radio"/> D <input type="radio"/> G	VE088211





VE088381

13. How often do you use computers as part of your delivery of classroom instruction to your students (excluding planning)?

- A Never or hardly ever
- B Sometimes
- C Very often
- D Always or almost always

VE088385

14. Based on keyboarding instruction at your school, which of the following best describes the keyboarding skills expected of students at the grade level you teach?

- A No typing skill is expected because we do not give formal keyboarding instruction.
- B Two-finger typing
- C Basic touch-typing
- D Rapid and accurate touch-typing

VE088182

15. When grading/evaluating your students' writing, approximately what percentage of the grade/evaluation is based on each of the following? Fill in **one** oval on each line.

	0%	1-5%	6-10%	11-25%	26-50%	51-75%	76-90%	Over 90%	
a. Development of ideas	<input type="radio"/> A	<input type="radio"/> B	<input type="radio"/> C	<input type="radio"/> D	<input type="radio"/> E	<input type="radio"/> F		<input type="radio"/> H	VE088184
b. Organization of ideas	<input type="radio"/> A	<input type="radio"/> B	<input type="radio"/> C	<input type="radio"/> D	<input type="radio"/> E	<input type="radio"/> F		<input type="radio"/> H	VE088186
c. Effectiveness of expression (e.g., sentence variety, word choice, tone)	<input type="radio"/> A <input type="radio"/> G	<input type="radio"/> B <input type="radio"/> G	<input type="radio"/> C <input type="radio"/> G	<input type="radio"/> D <input type="radio"/> G	<input type="radio"/> E <input type="radio"/> G	<input type="radio"/> F <input type="radio"/> G		<input type="radio"/> H <input type="radio"/> G	VE088188
d. Mechanics and conventions (e.g., spelling, grammar, punctuation)	<input type="radio"/> A <input type="radio"/> G	<input type="radio"/> B <input type="radio"/> G	<input type="radio"/> C <input type="radio"/> G	<input type="radio"/> D <input type="radio"/> G	<input type="radio"/> E <input type="radio"/> G	<input type="radio"/> F <input type="radio"/> G		<input type="radio"/> H <input type="radio"/> G	VE088189
e. Other (please specify):	<input type="radio"/> A <input type="radio"/> G	<input type="radio"/> B <input type="radio"/> G	<input type="radio"/> C <input type="radio"/> G	<input type="radio"/> D <input type="radio"/> G	<input type="radio"/> E <input type="radio"/> G	<input type="radio"/> F <input type="radio"/> G		<input type="radio"/> H <input type="radio"/> G	VE110929
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