

**Table 120.—Student values and attitudes toward writing, by grade level:
1984 to 1994**

Statements about writing	Percent of students reporting the statement is true more than half the time, by grade level											
	Grade 4				Grade 8				Grade 11			
	1984	1990	1992	1994	1984	1990	1992	1994	1984	1990	1992	1994
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
Writing helps me think more clearly	— —	— —	— —	— —	44 (2.0)	46 (1.2)	42 (1.6)	42 (1.1)	52 (2.5)	47 (1.4)	50 (1.5)	54 (1.2)
Writing helps me tell others what I think	— —	— —	— —	— —	52 (2.1)	56 (1.3)	52 (1.8)	54 (1.3)	55 (1.9)	58 (1.2)	57 (1.2)	58 (1.4)
Writing helps tell others how I feel	— —	— —	— —	— —	50 (2.0)	56 (1.7)	52 (1.8)	52 (1.5)	55 (2.3)	60 (1.3)	60 (1.2)	60 (1.4)
Writing helps me understand my own feelings	— —	— —	— —	— —	40 (2.2)	47 (1.6)	44 (1.4)	45 (1.4)	47 (2.1)	50 (1.3)	49 (1.4)	54 (1.7)
People who write well have a better chance of getting good jobs	— —	— —	— —	— —	47 (2.0)	53 (1.3)	51 (1.5)	51 (1.6)	54 (2.1)	58 (1.5)	59 (1.3)	58 (1.6)
People who write well are more influential	— —	— —	— —	— —	49 (1.9)	55 (1.3)	52 (1.6)	51 (1.5)	54 (2.4)	60 (1.2)	60 (1.5)	57 (1.5)
I like to write	56 (2.3)	57 (1.7)	54 (1.4)	56 (2.0)	39 (2.5)	42 (1.3)	43 (1.8)	42 (1.5)	40 (2.5)	39 (1.3)	43 (1.7)	42 (1.8)
I am a good writer	60 (2.1)	62 (1.4)	63 (1.3)	64 (1.4)	42 (1.8)	44 (1.3)	44 (1.5)	49 (1.9)	39 (1.9)	44 (1.3)	49 (1.7)	46 (1.8)
People like what I write	53 (2.1)	56 (1.8)	55 (1.4)	58 (1.6)	38 (2.4)	39 (1.6)	44 (1.7)	44 (1.8)	36 (2.6)	42 (1.3)	46 (1.5)	44 (2.2)
I write on my own outside of school	48 (1.9)	42 (1.5)	46 (1.2)	45 (1.8)	36 (2.5)	35 (1.4)	37 (1.6)	36 (1.7)	31 (2.7)	28 (1.0)	33 (1.3)	32 (1.9)
I don't like to write things that will be graded	38 (2.0)	33 (1.5)	32 (1.2)	33 (1.2)	31 (2.2)	36 (1.2)	37 (1.8)	38 (1.4)	27 (1.9)	30 (1.4)	30 (1.2)	33 (1.3)
If I didn't have to write for school, I wouldn't write anything	33 (1.7)	27 (1.2)	28 (1.2)	27 (1.3)	17 (2.2)	19 (1.1)	18 (1.1)	21 (1.2)	15 (1.4)	16 (1.0)	17 (1.2)	17 (1.1)

—Not available.

NOTE: Standard errors appear in parentheses.

SOURCE: U.S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics, Trends in Academic Progress, *NAEP 1992 Trends in Academic Progress*, and *NAEP 1994 Trends in Academic Progress*, by Educational Testing Service. (This table was prepared May 1999.)