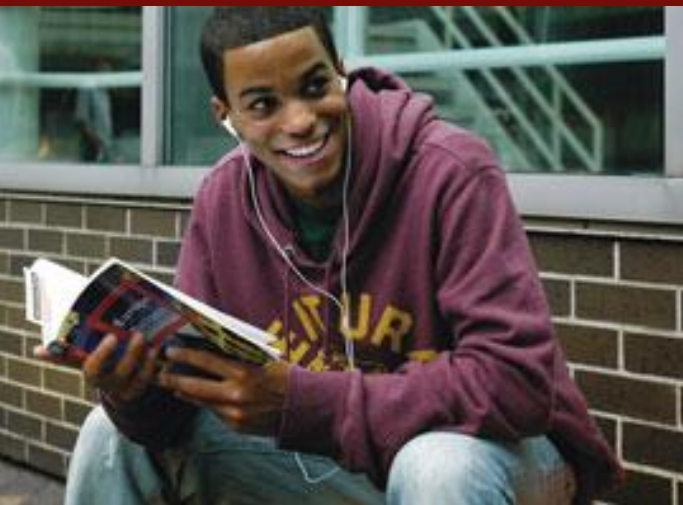


# Transitions: Assessing Writing & The First-Year Experience using BCSSE/NSSE Data

Indiana University  
Center for Postsecondary  
Research



Tiffani Butler  
James S. Cole  
Theresa Hitchcock  
February 8, 2009





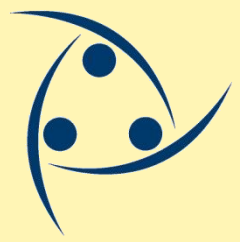
# Purpose

- We will discuss the basics of the *Beginning College Survey of Student Engagement* (BCSSE), including administration and making use of the data. This session is intended for those wanting to know more about BCSSE, specifically using BCSSE data FY writing assessment.



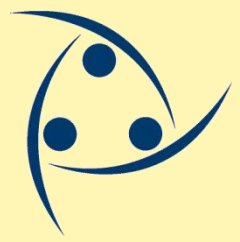
# Overview

- Description of BCSSE
- Administration & Reports
- Using BCSSE data to assess writing in the first year
- Questions and Discussion



# Description of BCSSE

Purpose of BCSSE is to measure entering first-year students' pre-college academic and co-curricular experiences, as well as their expectations and attitudes for participating in educationally purposeful activities during the first college year.



# Description of BCSSE

There are 3 sections to the BCSSE survey

- 1) First section asks students about their high school experiences
- 2) Second section asks students about their expectations and beliefs regarding their first-year of college
- 3) The last section asks students about background characteristics.



# Description of BCSSE

## High School Experiences

### High School Experiences

**1** Please write in the year you graduated from high school (for example, "2007"):

--	--	--	--

**2** From which type of high school did you graduate? (Select only one.)

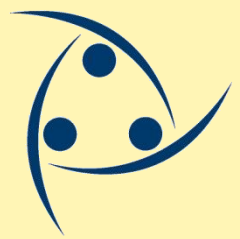
- |  |  |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Public                          | <input type="checkbox"/> Home school       |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Private, religiously-affiliated | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (e.g., GED) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Private, independent            |  |

**3** What were most of your high school grades? (Select only one.)

- |                             |                             |  |
|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> A  | <input type="checkbox"/> B  | <input type="checkbox"/> C               |
| <input type="checkbox"/> A- | <input type="checkbox"/> B- | <input type="checkbox"/> C- or lower     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> B+ | <input type="checkbox"/> C+ | <input type="checkbox"/> Grades not used |

**4** To date, in which of the following math classes did you earn a passing grade?

	Did not take	Passed	Did not pass
a. Pre-calculus/Trigonometry	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b. Calculus	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
c. Probability or Statistics	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

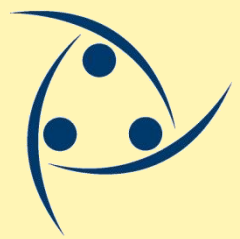


# Description of BCSSE

## Expected First Year Experiences

**14** During the coming school year, about how often do you expect to do each of the following?

	Very often	Often	Some-times	Never
a. Ask questions in class or contribute to class discussions	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b. Make a class presentation	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>



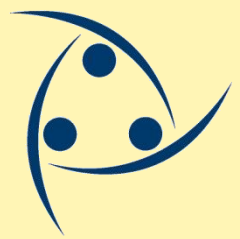
# Description of BCSSE

## Attitudes and Beliefs

**17** How prepared are you to do the following in your academic work at this college?

	Not at all prepared				Very prepared	
	1	2	3	4	5	6
a. Write clearly and effectively	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b. Speak clearly and effectively	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
c. Think critically and analytically	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
d. Analyze math or quantitative problems	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>





# Description of BCSSE

## Background Characteristics

### Additional Information

**24** Do you know what your major will be?

No

Yes, specify:

**25** Are you, or will you be, a full-time student this fall term?

Yes

No

**26** How many of your close friends will attend this college during the coming year?

None

1

2

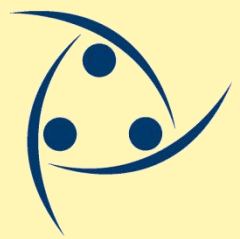
3

4 or more

**27** Your sex:

Female

Male



# Description of BCSSE

Many of these questions are designed to be matched with the *National Survey of Student Engagement*



**8** During your last year of high school, about how many hours did you spend in a typical 7-day week doing each of the following?

a. Preparing for class (studying, doing homework, rehearsing, etc.)

0  1-5  6-10  11-15  16-20  21-25  26-30  More than 30  
Hours per week

b. Working for pay (before or after school, weekends)

0  1-5  6-10  11-15  16-20  21-25  26-30  More than 30  
Hours per week

c. Participating in co-curricular activities (arts, clubs, athletics, etc.)

0  1-5  6-10  11-15  16-20  21-25  26-30  More than 30  
Hours per week

d. Relaxing and socializing (watching TV, partying, etc.)

0  1-5  6-10  11-15  16-20  21-25  26-30  More than 30  
Hours per week

**13** During the coming school year, about how many hours do you think you will spend in a typical 7-day week doing each of the following?

a. Preparing for class (studying, reading, writing, doing homework or lab work, analyzing data, rehearsing, and other academic activities)

0  1-5  6-10  11-15  16-20  21-25  26-30  More than 30  
Hours per week

b. Working for pay on- or off-campus

0  1-5  6-10  11-15  16-20  21-25  26-30  More than 30  
Hours per week

c. Participating in co-curricular activities (organizations, publications, student government, fraternity or intercollegiate or intramural sports, etc.)

0  1-5  6-10  11-15  16-20  21-25  26-30  More than 30  
Hours per week

d. Relaxing and socializing (watching TV, partying, etc.)

0  1-5  6-10  11-15  16-20  21-25  26-30  More than 30  
Hours per week

**9** About how many hours do you spend in a typical 7-day week doing each of the following?

a. Preparing for class (studying, reading, writing, doing homework or lab work, analyzing data, rehearsing, and other academic activities)

0  1-5  6-10  11-15  16-20  21-25  26-30  More than 30  
Hours per week

b. Working for pay on campus

0  1-5  6-10  11-15  16-20  21-25  26-30  More than 30  
Hours per week

c. Working for pay off campus

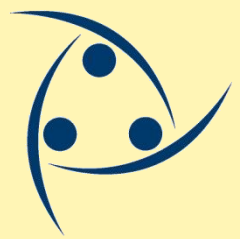
0  1-5  6-10  11-15  16-20  21-25  26-30  More than 30  
Hours per week

d. Participating in co-curricular activities (organizations, campus publications, student government, fraternity or sorority, intercollegiate or intramural sports, etc.)

0  1-5  6-10  11-15  16-20  21-25  26-30  More than 30  
Hours per week

e. Relaxing and socializing (watching TV, partying, etc.)

0  1-5  6-10  11-15  16-20  21-25  26-30  More than 30  
Hours per week



# Description of BCSSE

## Expected First Year Experiences

BCSSE 

**14** During the coming school year, about how often do you expect to do each of the following?

	Very often	Often	Some- times	Never
a. Ask questions in class or contribute to class discussions	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b. Make a class presentation	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

NSSE 

	Very often	Often	Some- times	Never
a. Asked questions in class or contributed to class discussions	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b. Made a class presentation	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>



# Administration

Two primary considerations:

- 1) The survey is locally administered prior to first-year students starting fall classes
- 2) How to choose between paper and/or web administration



# Reports

There are three reports

1. BCSSE Report
2. BCSSE Advising
3. BCSSE/NSSE report

## BCSSE Report



### BCSSE 2007 Engagement Item Frequency Distributions NSSEville State University

	<i>Variable</i>	<i>Response Options</i>	<b>All Students</b>		<b>Gender</b>				<b>First Generation<sup>a</sup></b>			
			<b>NSSEville</b>		<b>Female</b>		<b>Male</b>		<b>Yes</b>		<b>No</b>	
			<i>Count</i>	<i>%</i>	<i>Count</i>	<i>%</i>	<i>Count</i>	<i>%</i>	<i>Count</i>	<i>%</i>	<i>Count</i>	<i>%</i>
d. Relaxing and socializing (watching TV, partying, etc.)	hsocial	0 hours per week	4	0%	4	0%	0	0%	3	1%	0	0%
		1-5 hours per week	254	18%	176	22%	75	12%	102	25%	128	14%
		6-10 hours per week	381	27%	237	29%	142	23%	114	28%	242	26%
		11-15 hours per week	332	23%	181	22%	147	24%	83	20%	229	25%
		16-20 hours per week	239	17%	138	17%	99	16%	62	15%	167	18%
		21-25 hours per week	112	8%	34	4%	76	12%	18	4%	84	9%
		26-30 hours per week	41	3%	23	3%	18	3%	11	3%	28	3%
		More than 30 hours per week	74	5%	17	2%	57	9%	17	4%	54	6%
		<b>Total</b>	<b>1,437</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>810</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>614</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>410</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>932</b>	<b>100%</b>



## BCSSE Report



### BCSSE 2007 Engagement Item Frequency Distributions NSSEville State University

Variable	Response Options	All Students		Gender				First Generation <sup>a</sup>				
		NSSEville		Female		Male		Yes		No		
		Count	%	Count	%	Count	%	Count	%	Count	%	
d. Relaxing and socializing (watching TV, partying, etc.)	hsocial	0 hours per week	4	0%	4	0%	0	0%	3	1%	0	0%
	1-5 hours per week	254	18%	176	22%	75	12%	102	25%	128	14%	
	6-10 hours per week	381	27%	237	29%	142	23%	114	28%	242	26%	
	11-15 hours per week	332	23%	181	22%	147	24%	83	20%	229	25%	
	16-20 hours per week	239	17%	128	17%	90	16%	62	15%	167	18%	
	21-25 hours per week	112	8%	34	4%	76	12%	18	4%	84	9%	
	26-30 hours per week	41	3%	23	3%	18	3%	11	3%	28	3%	
	More than 30 hours per week	74	5%	17	2%	57	9%	17	4%	54	6%	
Total		1,437	100%	810	100%	614	100%	410	100%	932	100%	

## BCSSE Report

### BCSSE 2007 Mean Scale Scores and Selected Student Comparisons NSSEville State University

Scale <sup>a</sup>	Variable	All Students NSSEville			Gender Comparisons				First Generation <sup>d</sup> Comparisons			
		Mean	SD	N	Means by Gender		Tests of mean differences		Means by First Generation		Tests of mean differences	
					Female	Male	Sig. <sup>b</sup>	Effect size <sup>c</sup>	Yes	No	Sig. <sup>b</sup>	Effect size <sup>c</sup>
<b>High School Academic Engagement</b>												
<i>Engagement in educationally relevant behaviors during high school</i>	HS_acad	5.31	1.35	1,440	5.48	5.09	***	.29	5.04	5.43	***	-.29
<b>Expected First-Year Academic Engagement</b>												
<i>Expected engagement in educationally relevant behaviors during the first-year of college</i>	Exp_acad	6.20	1.50	1,440	6.18	6.21		-.02	5.98	6.30	***	-.21



## BCSSE Report

### BCSSE 2007 Mean Scale Scores and Selected Student Comparisons NSSEville State University

Scale <sup>a</sup>	Variable	All Students NSSEville			Gender Comparisons				First Generation <sup>d</sup> Comparisons			
		Mean	SD	N	Means by Gender		Tests of mean differences		Means by First Generation		Tests of mean differences	
					Female	Male	Sig. <sup>b</sup>	Effect size <sup>c</sup>	Yes	No	Sig. <sup>b</sup>	Effect size <sup>c</sup>
<b>High School Academic Engagement</b> <i>Engagement in educationally relevant behaviors during high school</i>	HS_acad	5.31	1.35	1,440	5.48	5.09	***	.29	5.04	5.43	***	-.29
<b>Expected First-Year Academic Engagement</b> <i>Expected engagement in educationally relevant behaviors during the first-year of college</i>	Exp_acad	6.20	1.50	1,440	6.18	6.21		-.02	5.98	6.30	***	-.21

## BCSSE Advising



### Beginning College Survey of Student Engagement

Student Advising Report 2007-2008  
NSSEville State University

#### Student Background

Student ID	123456789
Last name (first 3 letters)	MAR
Gender	Female
Home zip code	55555
Survey taken	While attending orientation
First generation student?	No

#### High School Experiences

High school grades	A-
High school type	Public

*About how many hours did you spend in a typical 7-day week doing each of the following?*

Preparing for class	6-10 hrs
Working for pay on- or off- campus	0 hrs
Participating in co-curricular activities	1-5 hrs
Relaxing or socializing	1-5 hrs

#### *How difficult do you expect the following to be?*

*1 = Not at all difficult to 6 = Very Difficult*

Learning course material	4
Managing your time	5
Paying for college expenses	3
Getting help with school work	2
Making new friends	1
Interacting with faculty	1

#### *How certain are you that you will do the following?*

*1 = Not at all certain to 6 = Very certain*

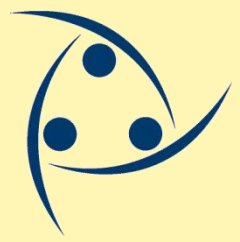
Study when there are other interesting things to do	4
Find additional information for assignments when you don't understand the material	6
Participate regularly in course discussions, even when you don't feel like it	6
Ask instructors for help when you struggle with course assignments	6
Finish something you have started when you encounter challenges	6
Stay positive, even when you do poorly on a test or assignment	6

## BCSSE/NSSE Report

<i>How many hours in a typical 7-day week doing each of the following?</i>		BCSSE <sup>1</sup>				NSSE <sup>2</sup>	
		High School		Expected FY		First Year	
		<i>Count</i>	<i>%</i>	<i>Count</i>	<i>%</i>	<i>Count</i>	<i>%</i>
Preparing for class (studying, doing homework, rehearsing, etc.)	None	28	2	0	0	2	1
	1-10	904	63	154	11	166	42
	11-20	386	27	636	45	189	42
	More than 20	119	8	636	45	78	16
	Total	1,437	100	1,426	100	435	100
Participating in co-curricular activities (arts, clubs, athletics, etc.)	None	94	7	51	4	155	37
	1-10	474	33	748	52	176	40
	11-20	613	43	464	32	67	14
	More than 20	255	18	165	12	37	9
	Total	1,436	100	1,428	100	435	100
Working for pay	No	477	33	548	38	212	49
	Yes	961	67	879	62	223	51
	Total	1,438	100	1,427	100	435	100

## BCSSE/NSSE Report

<i>How many hours in a typical 7-day week doing each of the following?</i>		BCSSE <sup>1</sup>				NSSE <sup>2</sup>	
		High School		Expected FY		First Year	
		<i>Count</i>	<i>%</i>	<i>Count</i>	<i>%</i>	<i>Count</i>	<i>%</i>
Preparing for class (studying, doing homework, rehearsing, etc.)	None	28	2	0	0	2	1
	1-10	904	63	154	11	166	42
	11-20	386	27	636	45	189	42
	More than 20	119	8	636	45	78	16
	Total	1,437	100	1,426	100	435	100
Participating in co-curricular activities (arts, clubs, athletics, etc.)	None	94	7	51	4	155	37
	1-10	474	33	748	52	176	40
	11-20	613	43	464	32	67	14
	More than 20	255	18	165	12	37	9
	Total	1,436	100	1,428	100	435	100
Working for pay	No	477	33	548	38	212	49
	Yes	961	67	879	62	223	51
	Total	1,438	100	1,427	100	435	100



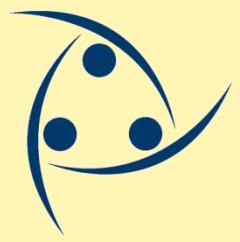
# Using BCSSE data to assess writing in the first-year

How high school writing preparation relates their incoming expectations for writing as well as their first year writing experiences.



# Writing Context

- Common Goal:
  - We all have a vested interest in knowing and understanding how students are doing – at every level, but the most important is “whether or not they are succeeding” (Plata).
- On-going Dilemma
  - “Institutions still struggle to find useful ways to assess student achievement, especially in writing”
- Why Writing?
  - “Developing students’ writing ability is a goal shared by virtually all college and universities” (McCormick, 2008, pg. 8).



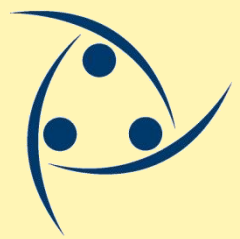
# H.S. Writing Preparation

Used data from 3 BCSSE questions regarding high school experiences with writing:

Q7b. Writing short papers or reports (5 or fewer pages)

Q7c. Writing longer papers or reports (more than 5 pages)

Q9g. Prepared two or more drafts of a paper or assignment before turning it in



# H.S. Writing Preparation

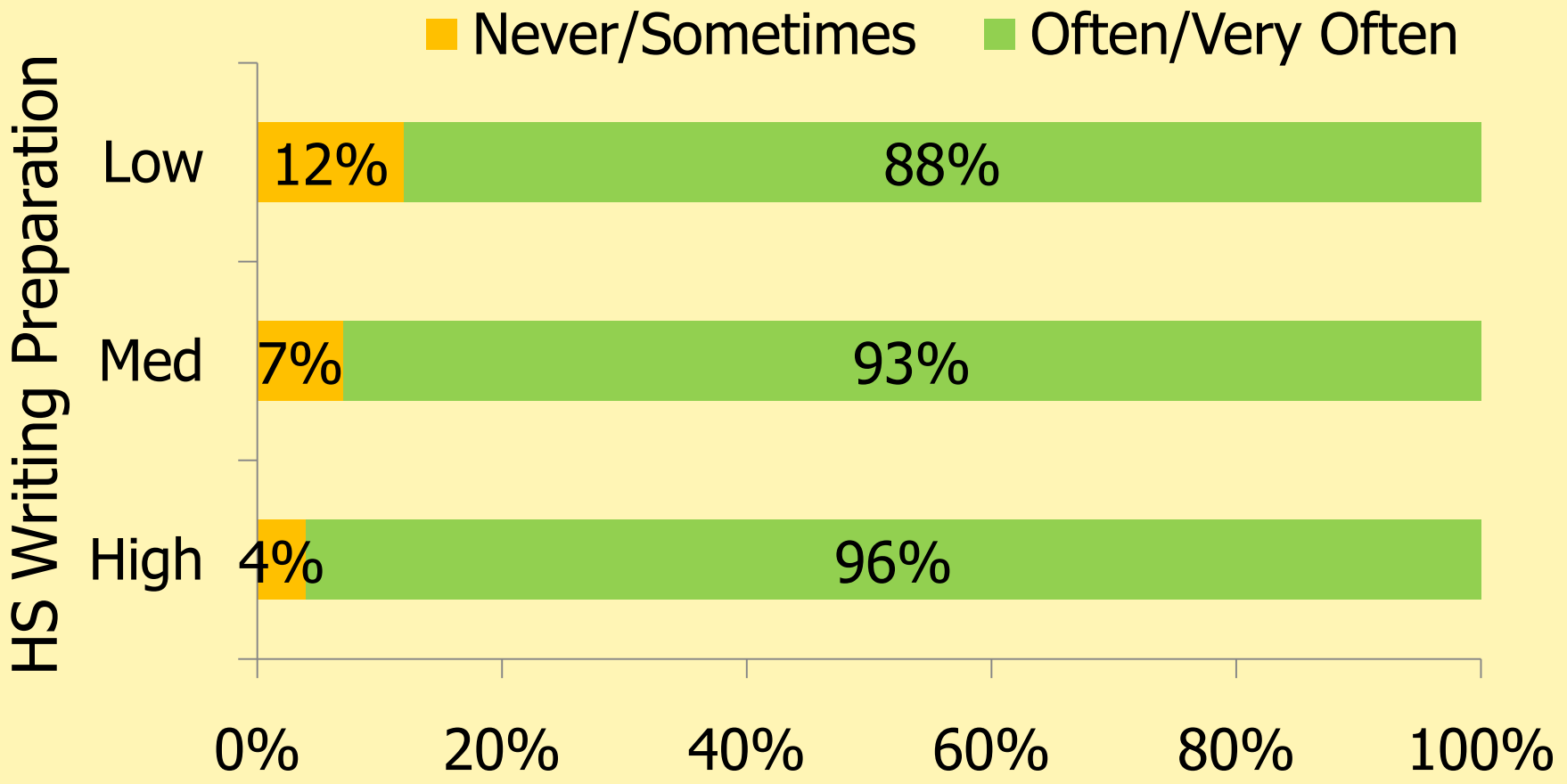
		HS Writing Preparation		
		Low	Med	High
Gender	Female	31%	33%	36%
	Male	39%	35%	26%
Race/Ethnicity	White	35%	34%	31%
	Black/Afr. Am.	32%	30%	38%
	Hispanic	32%	33%	35%
	Asian	32%	32%	36%
First-Generation?	No	32%	34%	34%
	Yes	36%	33%	31%

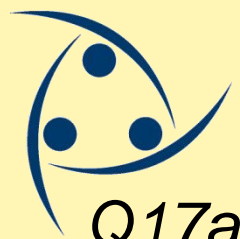




# Writing Expectations

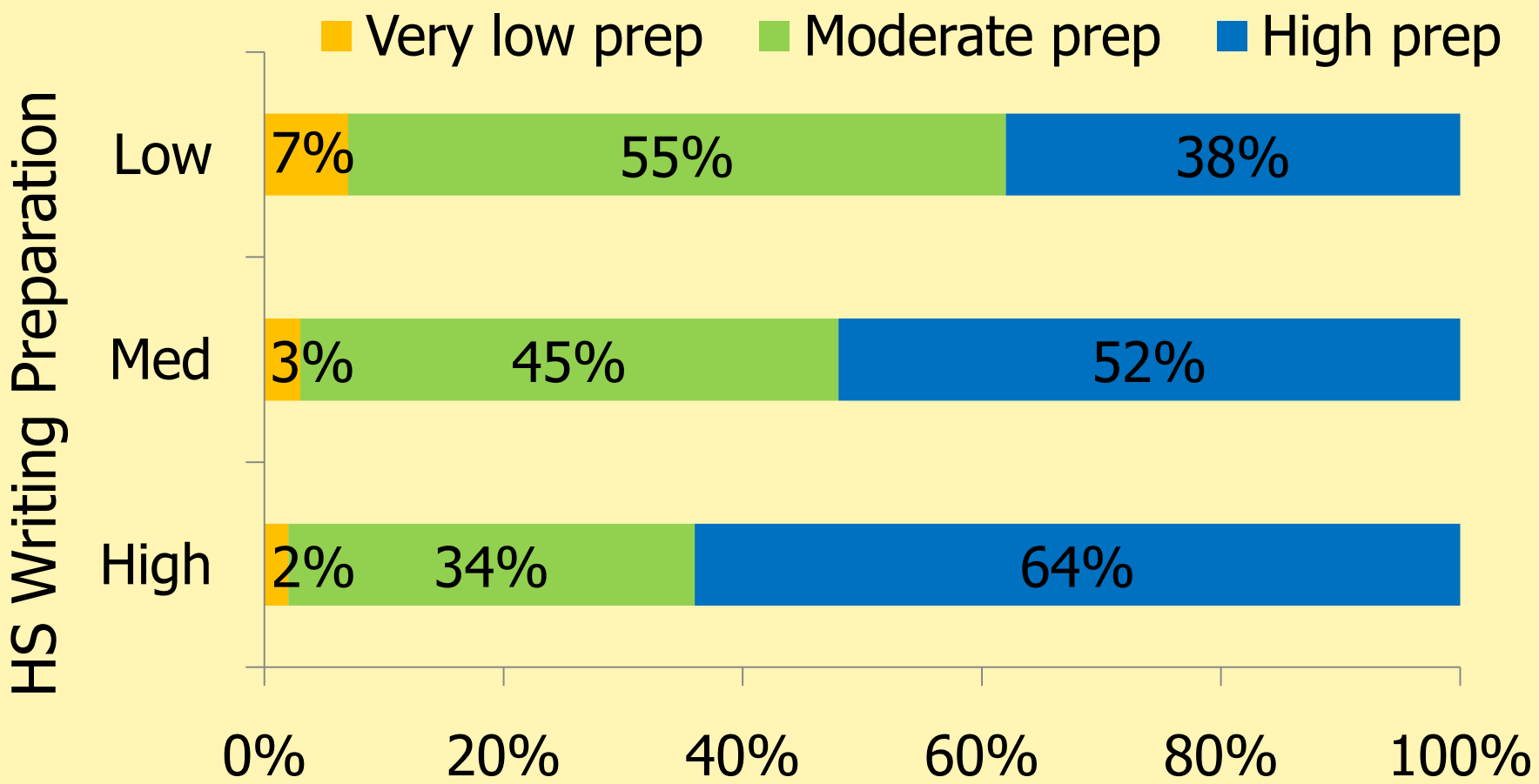
*Q14c. First-year expectation to work on a paper or project that requires integrating ideas or information*

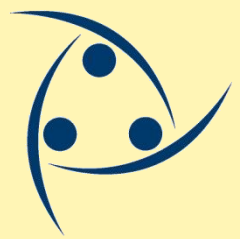




# Writing Expectations

Q17a. How prepared are you to write clearly and effectively?

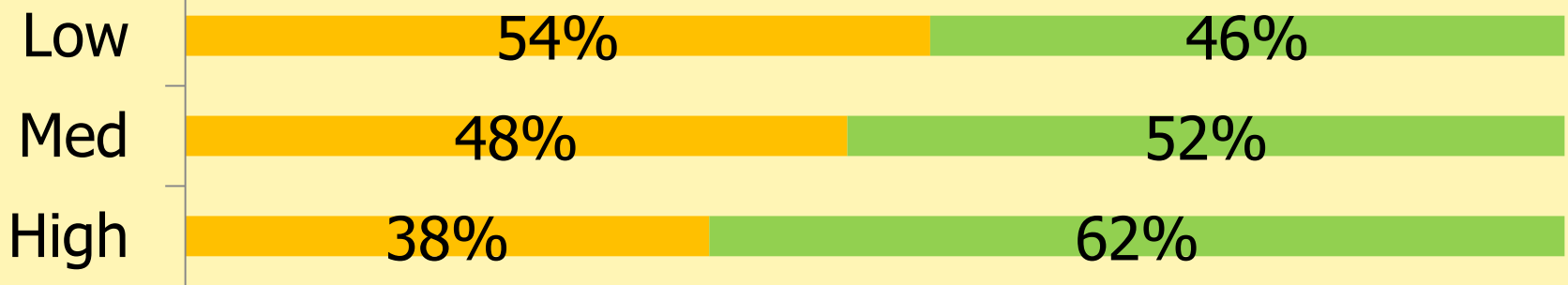




# FY Writing Experiences

■ N/O ■ O/VO

*How often did you prepare two or more drafts? (Q1c)*

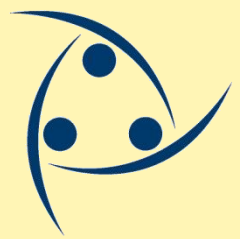


*How often did you work on a paper/project that integrated ideas (Q1d)*

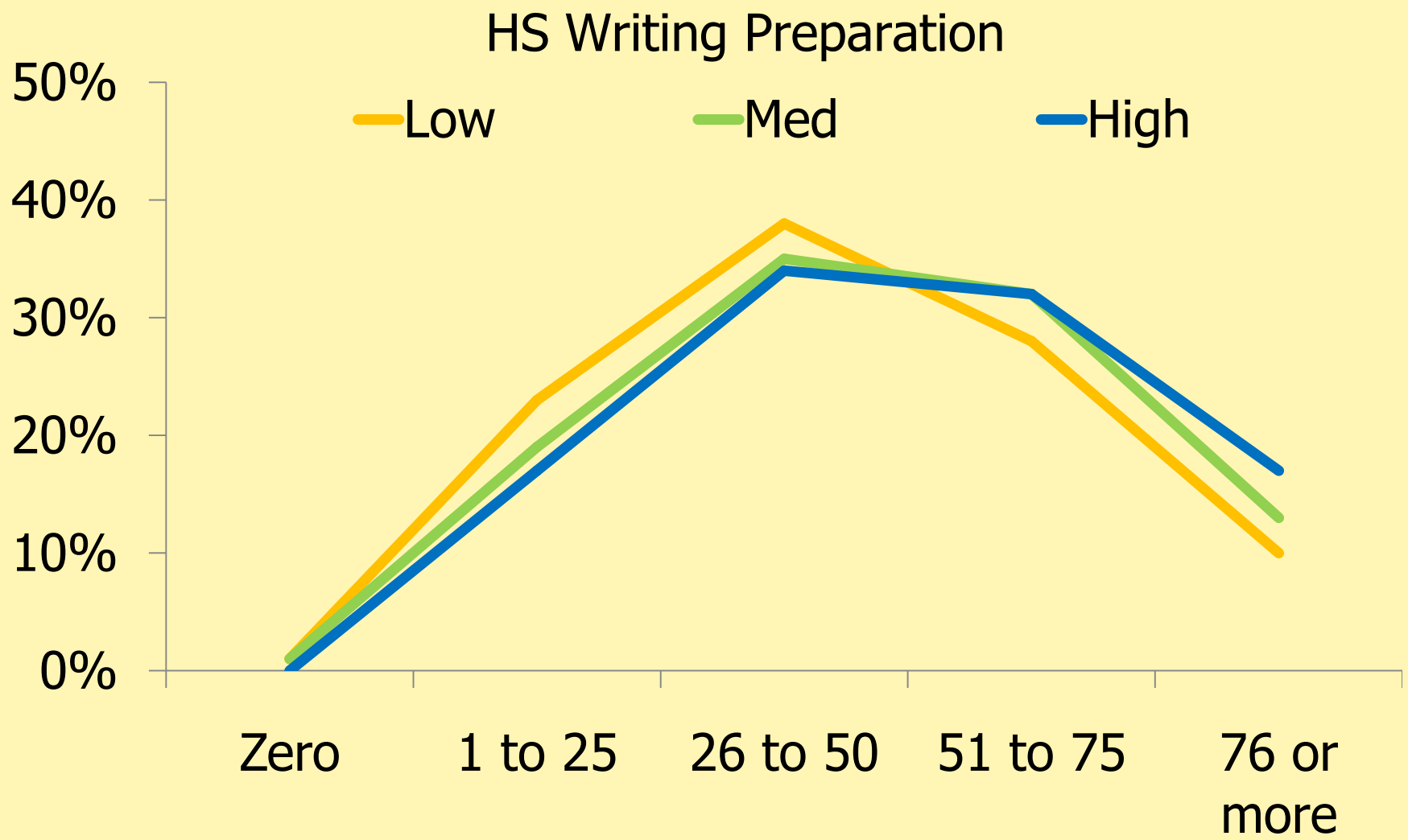


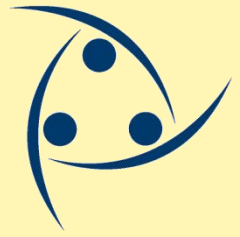
0% 20% 40% 60% 80% 100%

HS Writing Preparation



# FY Writing Experiences





# Questions?

**About BCSSE?**

**About NSSE?**





# Contact Us

Tiffani Butler  
James S. Cole  
Theresa Hitchcock

Indiana University Center for  
Postsecondary Research

[www.nsse.iub.edu](http://www.nsse.iub.edu)

866-435-6773

[nsse@iub.edu](mailto:nsse@iub.edu)