



The Nation's Report Card

Writing

ABSTRACT *Report 2011*

The National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) released the *Writing 2011* assessment results, based on a nationally representative sample of 241,000 eighth grade students from 950 schools and 28,100 twelfth grade students from 1,220 schools. This assessment included 22 writing tasks at grade 8 and 22 tasks at grade 12. Writing tasks were presented to students in a variety of ways, including text, audio, photographs, video, or animation on the computer. Students were randomly assigned two writing tasks and had 30 minutes to complete each of the tasks. Survey questionnaires were completed by students, their teachers (at grade 8 only), and school administrators to help provide additional information about students' educational experiences and a context for understanding the assessment results. From this assessment came the NAEP writing scale which was used to establish the baseline for future computer-based writing assessment results. The participation rate for this assessment was 97 percent for grade 8 (100 percent for public schools, 71 percent for private schools, and 96 percent for Catholic schools only); and 94 percent for grade 12 (96 percent for public schools, 67 percent for private schools, and 77 percent for Catholic schools only). Weighted student participation rates were 94 percent at grade 8 and 87 percent at grade 12. The results (in part) follow: students' performance varied by race/ethnicity, gender, and school location; Asian students scored higher than other racial/ethnic groups; female students performed higher than male students; and computer-based assessment provided information on students' use of word-processing actions.



**NATIONAL ASSESSMENT OF
EDUCATIONAL PROGRESS
AT GRADES 8 AND 12**