Stanford University Study of Writing
Interview Questions

1. How much writing have you done this year? How many pages and/or papers did you write per class? How many pages and/or papers did you write in total?

2. What kinds of writing did you do in each of your classes this year? Which courses had assignments that asked you to use primary sources? Which asked you to use both primary and secondary sources? Which asked you to do outside research?

3. What kinds of instruction or preparation did your instructors provide for completing these assignments successfully?

4. Describe the process you typically go through in responding to a writing assignment. How do you prepare? How do you actually get started writing? Do you outline, for example, or just start? Do you typically revise? Is there anything about that process you might like to change?

5. What other help or advice was available to you as you prepared your assignments? Did you make use of the Stanford Writing Center? If so, how?

6. What were the revising policies for writing assignments?

7. What peer work did you do in or out of class on writing assignments?

8. Did you have a study group and if so how did it work?

9. Describe your use of the Web and other multimedia technologies such as e-mail, IM, or PanFora, etc. for completing course assignments and other course-related activities. What kinds of web-based projects have you done?

10. Describe your most successful writing experience this year. Why was it so successful? Compare it to your least successful writing experience. Why was it unsuccessful or unsatisfying?

11. How have you used visual elements (images, graphs, charts, maps, clip art, etc.) in your writing?

12. What could your instructors do to improve their instruction in terms of writing?

13. What about your writing are you most satisfied with and why? What about your writing would you most like to improve and why?

14. How would you define good writing?

15. In your college work what is writing most useful for?

16. How aware are you of current debates over intellectual property (in the music industry, for example), and in what ways, if any, do you see issues of intellectual property and copyright in relation to the writing you do in and out of class?
17. How does the reading and writing you are being asked to do in college differ from the reading and writing you were asked to do in high school?

18. What kinds of writing do you do outside of school?

19. Describe your use of the Web and other multimedia sources such as e-mail, IM, or PanFora, etc. for out-of-class writing. How does your use of these sources for out-of-class writing compare to your use of them for class-related writing?

20. How well prepared do you feel for the writing you have been asked to do in your classes? What might have better prepared you?