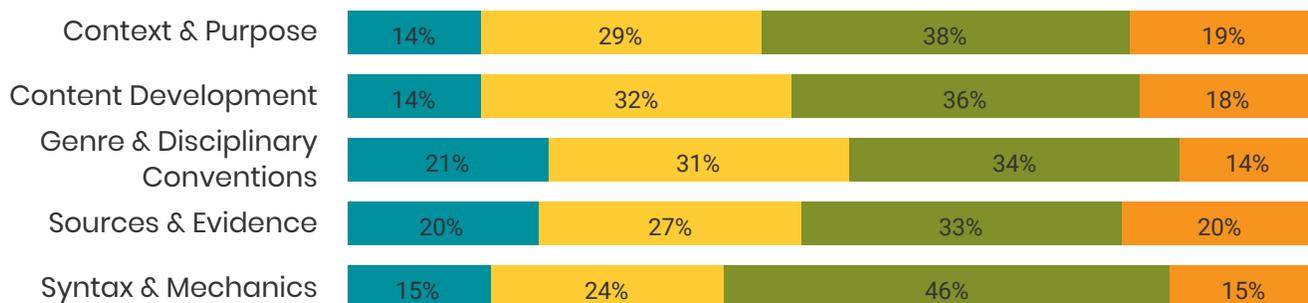


Written Communication in the Major

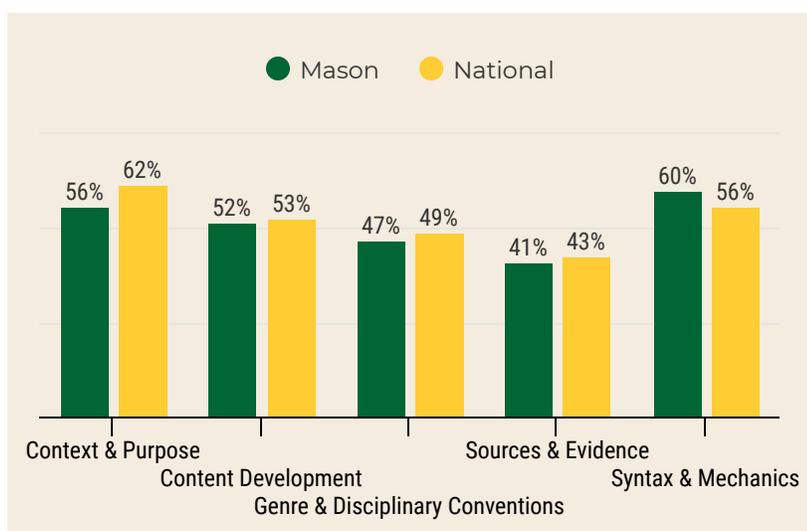
VALUE Rubric Assessment



● Benchmark ● Emerging ● Advanced ● Capstone

- ➔ 22% of samples were rated as "no evidence" for the outcome "Sources & Evidence," meaning that students did not use sources or evidence, or the writing assignment did not require it.
- ➔ Students who started at Mason as freshmen performed an average 8-15 points higher on all written communication outcomes than transfer students (n=185 freshmen; n=195 transfer).*
- ➔ There were no observed differences in performance between juniors and seniors on any of the written communication outcomes (n=67 juniors; n=314 seniors).*

Results are based on N=385 randomly selected student work samples from Writing Intensive in the Major courses from spring 2018, rated on the Written Communication VALUE Rubric. Each sample received two ratings by trained faculty evaluators, for a total of 770 ratings. The rubric uses four performance descriptors: Benchmark, Emerging Milestone, Advanced Milestone, and Capstone, and an option for "no evidence." *All comparison tests were Independent-Samples Mann-Whitney U, $p < .05$. Source: <https://www.aacu.org/value/rubrics/written-communication>



How do Mason Students Compare?

In comparing results from a 2017 national study[^] using samples of student work from seniors at 4-year institutions, this assessment suggests that Mason students perform similarly to their peers on combined ratings of Advanced + Capstone.

Similar to Mason, national data revealed that students were least likely to show evidence of Sources & Evidence in their writing assignments.

Note: Results for this chart are adjusted to include "no evidence" ratings, while the chart above excludes them.

[^] <https://www.aacu.org/OnSolidGroundVALUE>

