Direction for Use

The Writing Attitude Survey provides a quick indication of student attitudes toward writing. It consists of 28 items and can be administered to an entire classroom in about 20 minutes. Each item presents a brief, simply worded statement about writing, followed by four pictures of Garfield. Each pose is designed to depict a different emotional state, ranging from very positive to very negative.

Administration

Begin by telling students that you wish to find out how they feel about writing. Emphasize that this is not a test and that there are no right answers. Encourage sincerity.

Distribute the survey forms and, if you wish to monitor the attitudes of specific students, ask them to write their names in the space at the top. Hold up a copy of the survey so that the students can see the first page. Point to the picture of Garfield at the far left of the first item. Ask the students to look at the same picture on their own survey form. Discuss with them the mood Garfield seems to be in (very happy). Then move to the next picture and again discuss Garfield’s mood (this time, somewhat happy). In the same way, move to the third and fourth pictures and talk about Garfield’s moods—somewhat upset and very upset.

Explain that the survey contains some statements about writing and that the students should think about how they feel about each statement. They should then circle the picture of Garfield that is closest to their own feelings. (Emphasize that the students should respond according to their own feelings, not as Garfield might respond!) In the first and second grades read each item aloud slowly and distinctly, then read it a second time while students are thinking. Be sure to read the item number and to remind students of page numbers when new pages are reached.

In Grades 3 and above, monitor students while they are completing this survey. It is not necessary for the teacher to read the items aloud to students, unless the teacher feels it is necessary for newer or struggling readers.

Teachers should review the items prior to the administration of the survey to identify any words students may need defined to eliminate misunderstanding during completion of the instrument.

Scoring

To score the survey, count four points for each leftmost (very happy) Garfield circled, three points for the next Garfield to the right (somewhat happy), two points for the next Garfield to the right (somewhat upset), and one point for the rightmost Garfield (very upset). The individual scores for each question should be totaled to reach a raw score.

Interpretation

The scores should first be recorded on the scoring sheet. The scores can be interpreted in two ways. An informal approach would be to look at where the raw score falls related to the total possible points of 112. If the raw score is approximately 70, the score would fall midway between the somewhat happy and somewhat upset Garfields, indicating the student has an indifferent attitude toward writing. The formal approach involves converting the raw score to a percentile rank by using the table in the Writing Attitude Survey Scoring Sheet. The raw score should be found on the left-hand side of the table and matched to the percentile rank in the appropriate grade-level column.
**Writing Attitude Survey**

School: _______________________  Grade: ______________  Name: __________________________

1. How would you feeling writing a letter to the author of a book you read?

2. How would you feel if you wrote about something you have heard of or seen?

3. How would you feel writing a letter to a store asking about something you might buy there?

4. How would you feel telling in writing why something happened?

5. How would you feel writing to someone to change their opinion?

"Garfield" © Paws, Inc. All rights reserved.
6. How would you feel keeping a diary?

7. How would you feel writing poetry for fun?

8. How would you feel writing a letter stating your opinion about a topic?

9. How would you feel if you were an author who writes books?

10. How would you feel if you had a job as a writer for a newspaper or magazine?
11. How would you feel about becoming an even better writer than you already are?

12. How would you feel about writing a story instead of doing homework?

13. How would you feel about writing a story instead of watching TV?

14. How would you feel writing about something you did in science?

15. How would you feel writing about something you did in social studies?
16. How would you feel if you could write more in school?

17. How would you feel about writing down the important things your teachers say about a new topic?

18. How would you feel writing a long story or report at school?

19. How would you feel writing answers to questions in science or social studies?

20. How would you feel if your teacher asked you to go back and change some of your writing?
21. How would you feel if your classmates talked to you about making your writing better?

22. How would you feel writing an advertisement for something people can buy?

23. How would you feel keeping a journal for class?

24. How would you feel writing about things that have happened in your life?

25. How would you feel writing about something from another person’s point of view?
26. How would you feel about checking your writing to make sure the words you have written are spelled correctly?

27. How would you feel if your classmates read something you wrote?

28. How would you feel if you didn’t write as much in school?
## Writing Attitude Survey Scoring Sheet

Student name: ____________________________________________________________

Teacher: ____________________________________________________________________________

Grade: __________________ Administration Date: ____________________________

### Scoring Guide

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Points</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Very happy Garfield</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Somewhat happy Garfield</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Somewhat upset Garfield</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Very upset Garfield</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Item Scores

1.  ________________  
2.  ________________  
3.  ________________  
4.  ________________  
5.  ________________  
6.  ________________  
7.  ________________  
8.  ________________  
9.  ________________  
10.  ________________  
11.  ________________  
12.  ________________  
13.  ________________  
14.  ________________  
15.  ________________  
16.  ________________  
17.  ________________  
18.  ________________  
19.  ________________  
20.  ________________  
21.  ________________  
22.  ________________  
23.  ________________  
24.  ________________  
25.  ________________  
26.  ________________  
27.  ________________  
28.  ________________

Full-Scale Raw Score: __________

Percentile Rank: __________

---
