



...fning critical thinking. Students who write also expand their capacity for self-expression and develop greater confidence in their own voice. Writing ability is an important life skill, particularly in the job market. In surveys of business leaders and human resources man

after among new employees.

tions, lab reports, journals, and class notes. Over half of them wrote for classes nearly every day. Yet high school

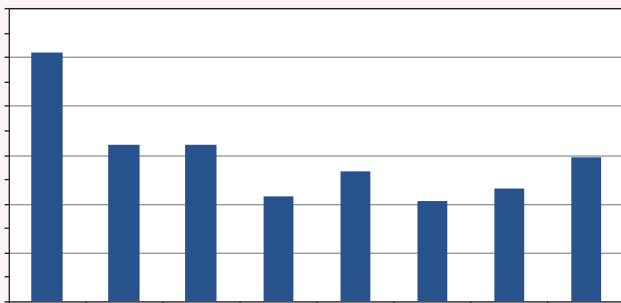
ed writing ability.

## KEY FACTS

As measured by the SAT, writing skills have consistently fallen among high school students since 2006.

In 2011, a national exam found that half of both 8th graders and 12th graders had basic writing skills, but only a quarter had true proficiency. Another 20% failed to demonstrate even basic achievement.

Share of Americans Who Did Creative Writing in the Previous 12 Months, 2012



## INNOVATIVE PROGRAMS

### 826valencia

sion District of San Francisco, works to help under-served students in the Bay Area improve both their academic and creative writing. The group provides one-on-one tutoring in multiple locations around the city and publishes student works as books, magazines, and podcasts.

In addition to tutoring students, 826valencia offers workshops, field trips, summer programs, and college scholarships. Best of all, its main office is located behind its Pirate Supply Store, which sells things like ogre den

tion's other programs.

In 826valencia's 2016-2017 survey of students, parents had greatM