

Who Publishes When

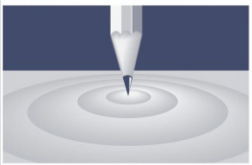
An Analysis of Writing and Publishing Statistics

Antanas Sileika

Humber ITAL

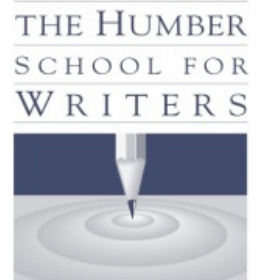
April– October, 2010

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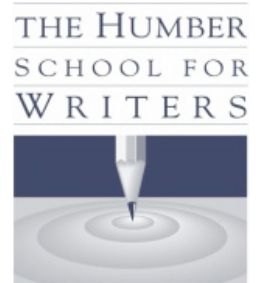
Purpose of the Study

- ▶ To find out the average age of Canadian writers of prose at publication of their first book
- ▶ (novel, collection of short stories, creative non-fiction – self-published and academic books excluded, poetry excluded)
- ▶ To find out the creative writing background of published writers.
- ▶ To see if any kind of trend of writing school influence can be determined from what we know so far.



How the Information Was Collected

- ▶ Using author web pages, email addresses in Writers' Union pages, leads through PWAC (Professional Writers' Association of Canada) and CANSCAIP (Canadian Society of Children's Authors, Illustrators and Performers) as well as Humber records, email addresses of prose writers were collected and they were written to and asked to respond anonymously to a 12-question survey on Survey Monkey.
- ▶ emails sent – 1,547
- ▶ Responses – 432



Question1:

- ▶ This very short, 12-question survey is being carried out by Antanas Sileika of the Humber School for Writers to study the ages and educational backgrounds of Canadian writers who have published non-academic books of fiction or non-fiction. Your answers are anonymous.

This questionnaire is designed to determine the age of first-time published prose authors in Canada, as well as their relationship (if any) to creative writing classes.

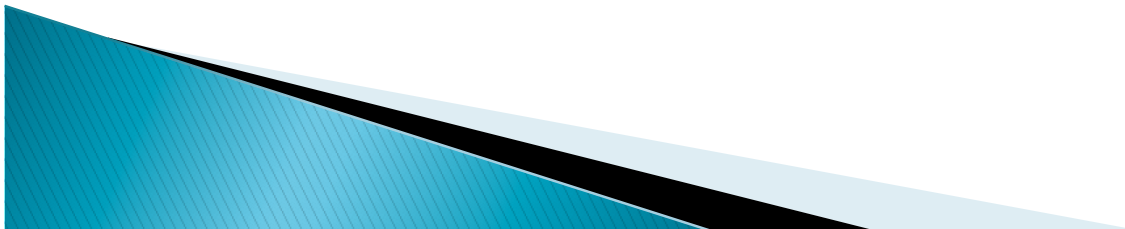
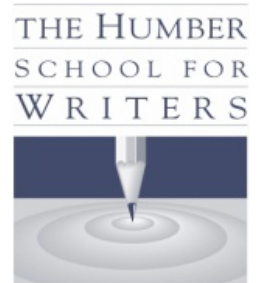
Please take a moment to do the survey – it shouldn't take longer than ten minutes. I'll present my results at a conference in Banff in October of 2010, and then post them on the Humber School for Writers web site.

Self-published books, textbooks, poetry books, and academic books are not included in this survey.

We are looking for writers of books of fiction or non-fiction published in English. If you published in another country such as the USA or UK, you should be a Canadian citizen or landed immigrant.

Thanks for your help!

Antanas Sileika



Question 2:

A) You are invited to participate in this research study. If you agree to participate in this study please complete the following:

- i) Read this entire information
- ii) Click on the statement “I agree” at the bottom of this page
- iii) Complete this survey, which will take approximately 10 minutes.

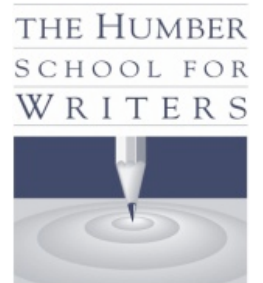
Participation in this study is completely voluntary. Your participation implies your consent.

Questions: If you have any questions about this study, please call Dr. Patricia Morgan, Chair of the REB at (416) 675-6622 ext 4602 or email Patricia.Morgan@Humber.ca.

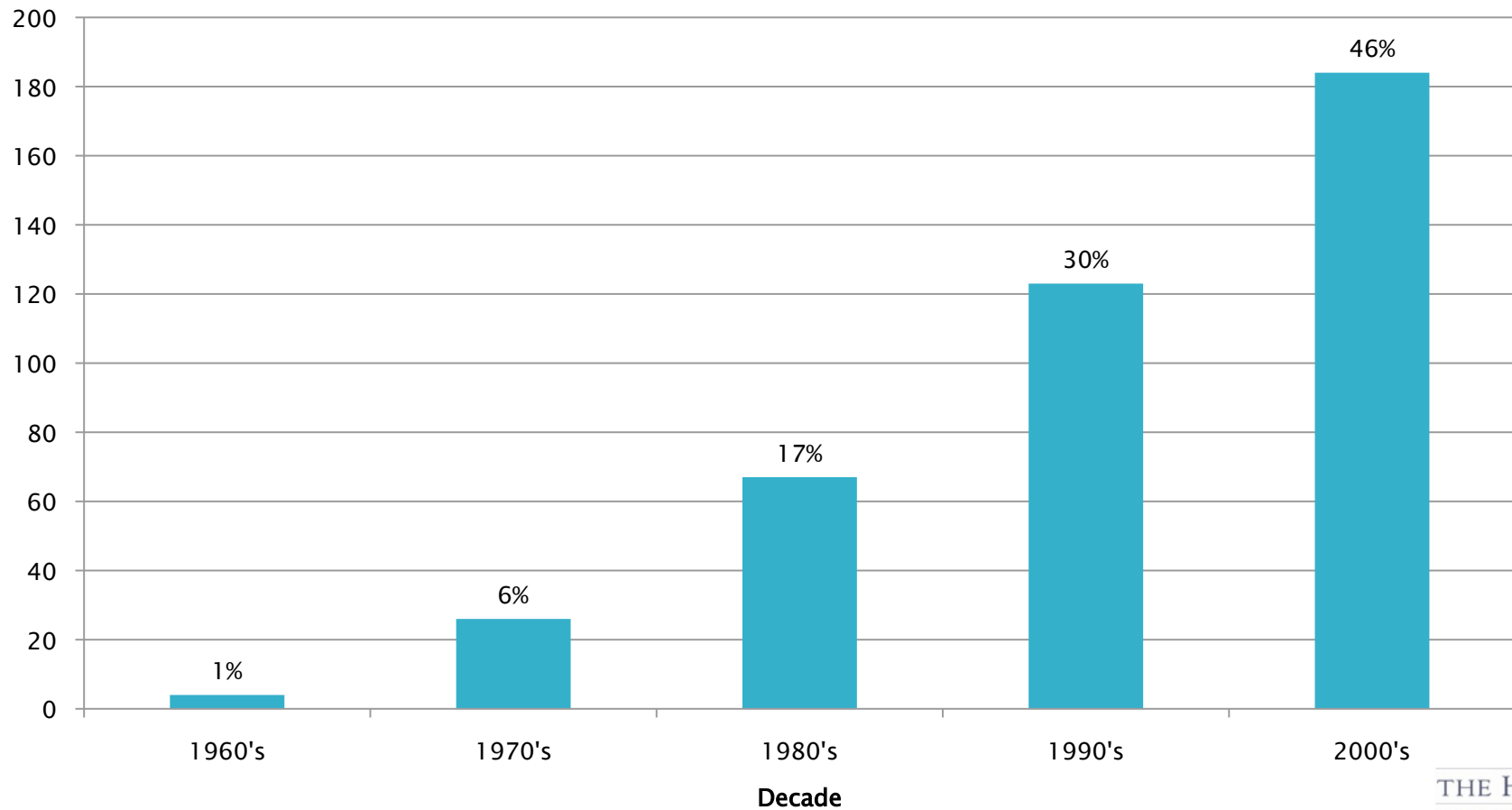
This study proposal has been reviewed and approved by The Research Ethics Board (REB) at Humber College. If you have any concerns or questions about your rights as a participant or about the way the study is conducted you may contact Patricia Morgan, Chair of the Research Ethics Board at (416) 675-6622 ext. 4602 or Patricia.Morgan@Humber.ca.

B) Self-published books are not covered in this survey. We are only asking about non-academic books of prose – fiction or creative non-fiction.

Have you published a book of fiction or non-fiction?



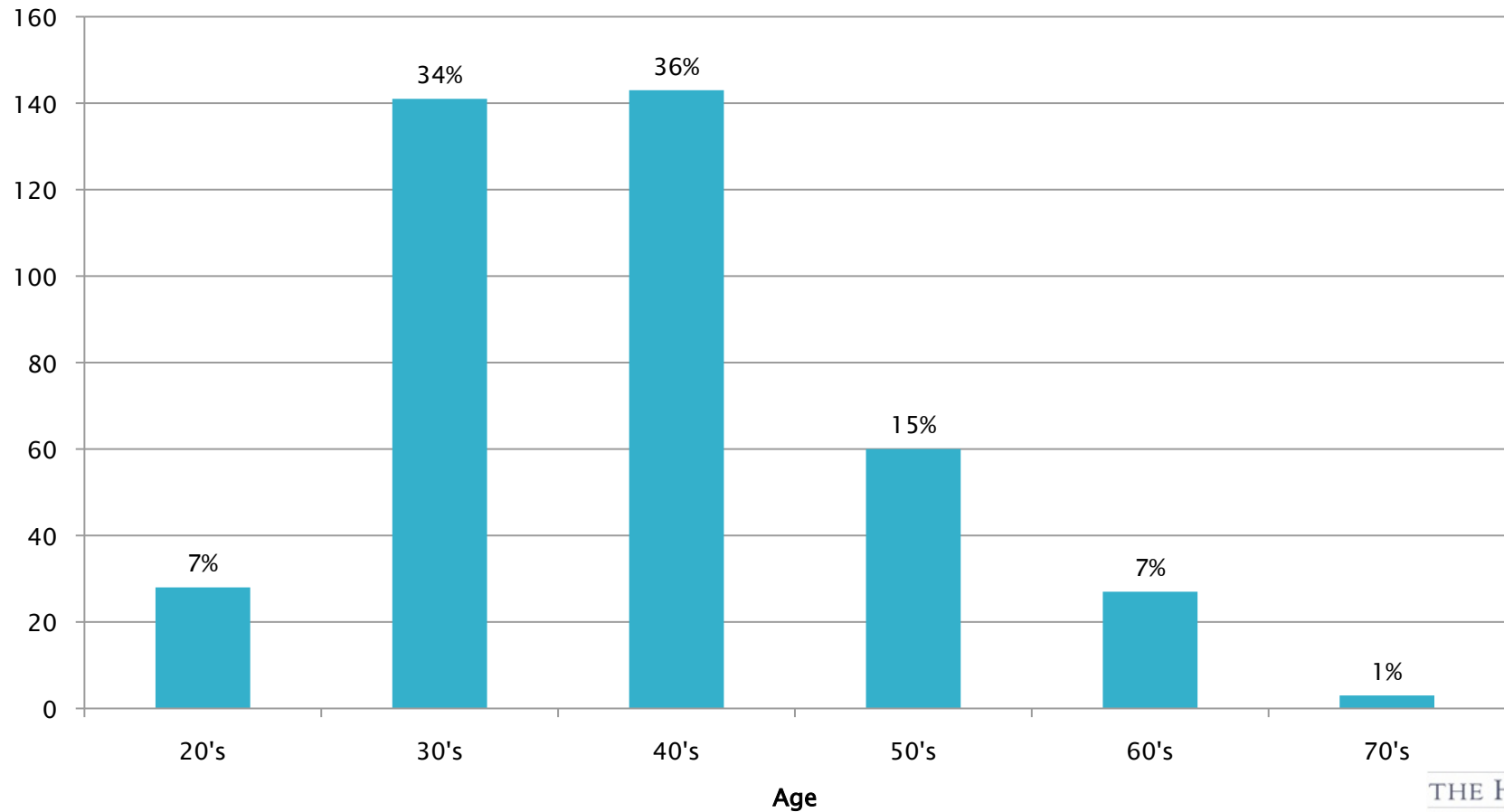
Question 3: Decade in Which First Book Published



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Question 4: Age at Which First Book Published

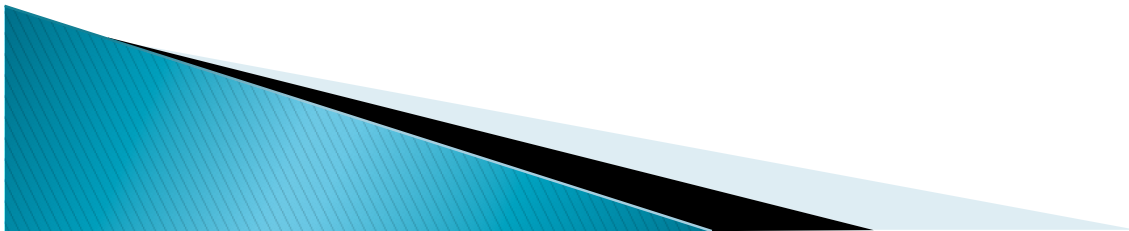


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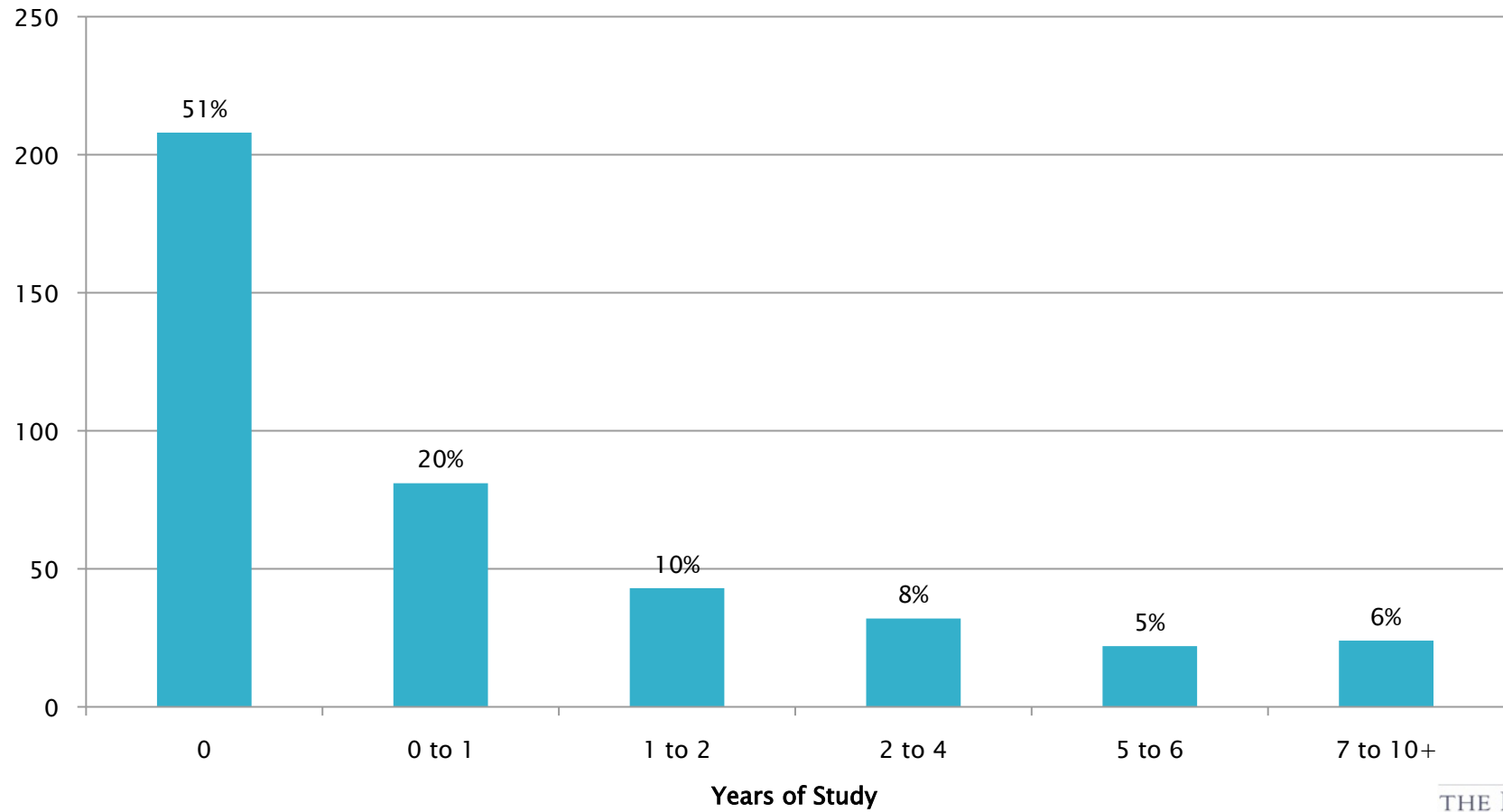


Question 4 Cont'd: Statistics

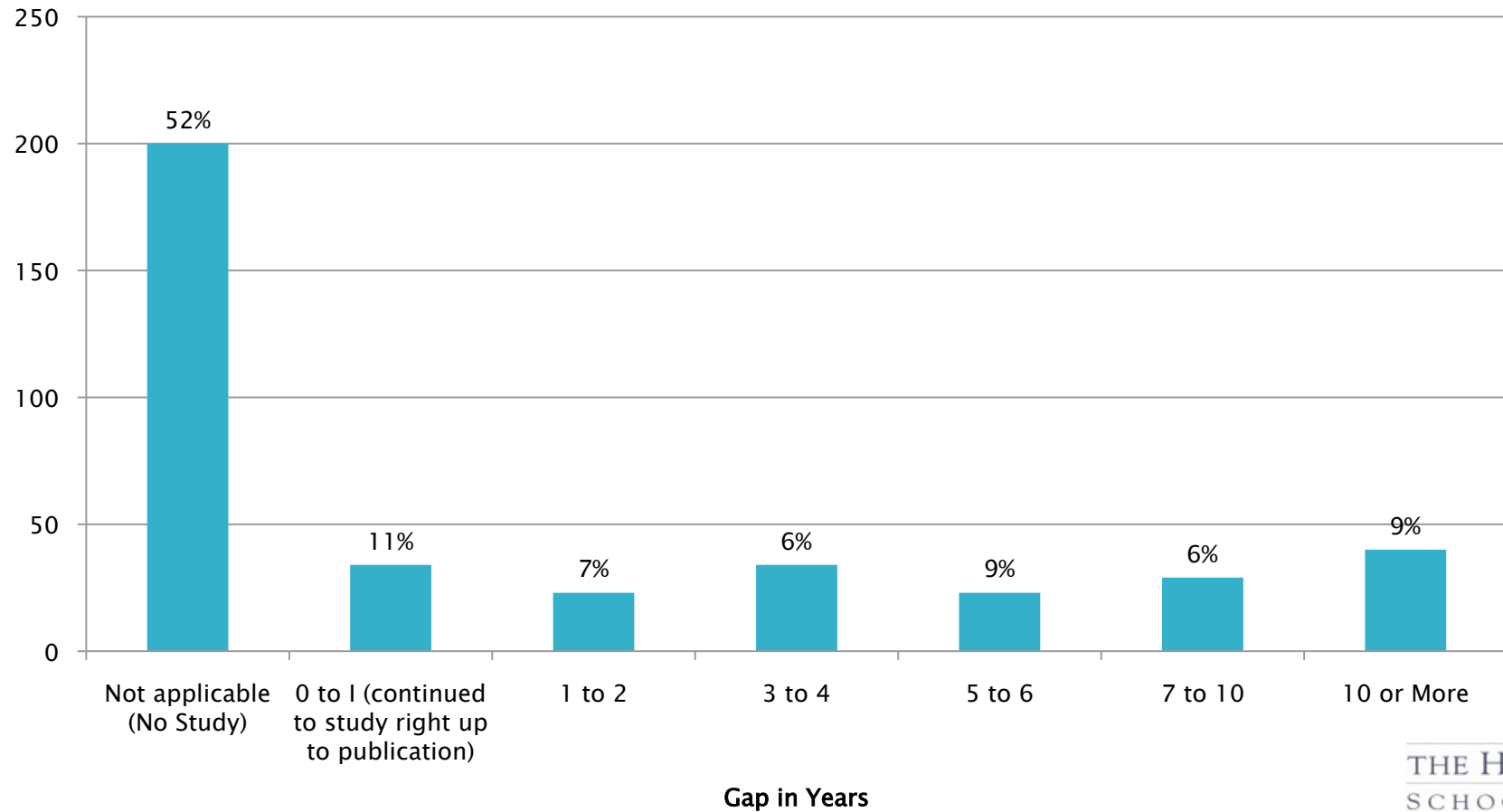
- ▶ Average Age: 42.43
- ▶ Median Age: 41.00
- ▶ Standard Deviation: 10.05929
- ▶ Min: 21
- ▶ Max: 72
- ▶ Range: 21 – 72
- ▶ Filtered out two people: <18 and ≥ 80



Question 5: Years of Study in Creative Writing



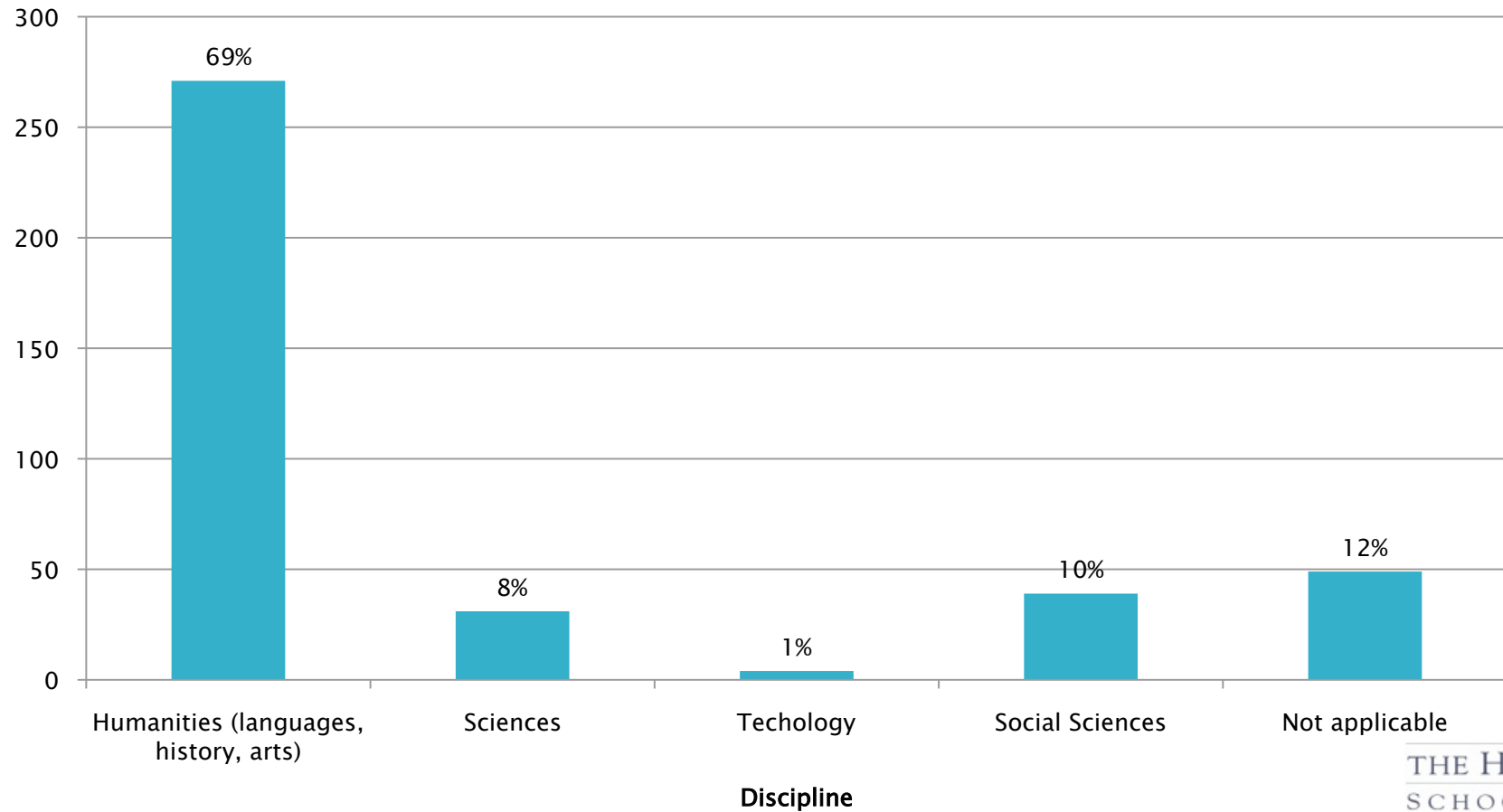
Question 6: Gap between Completion of Studies and Publication



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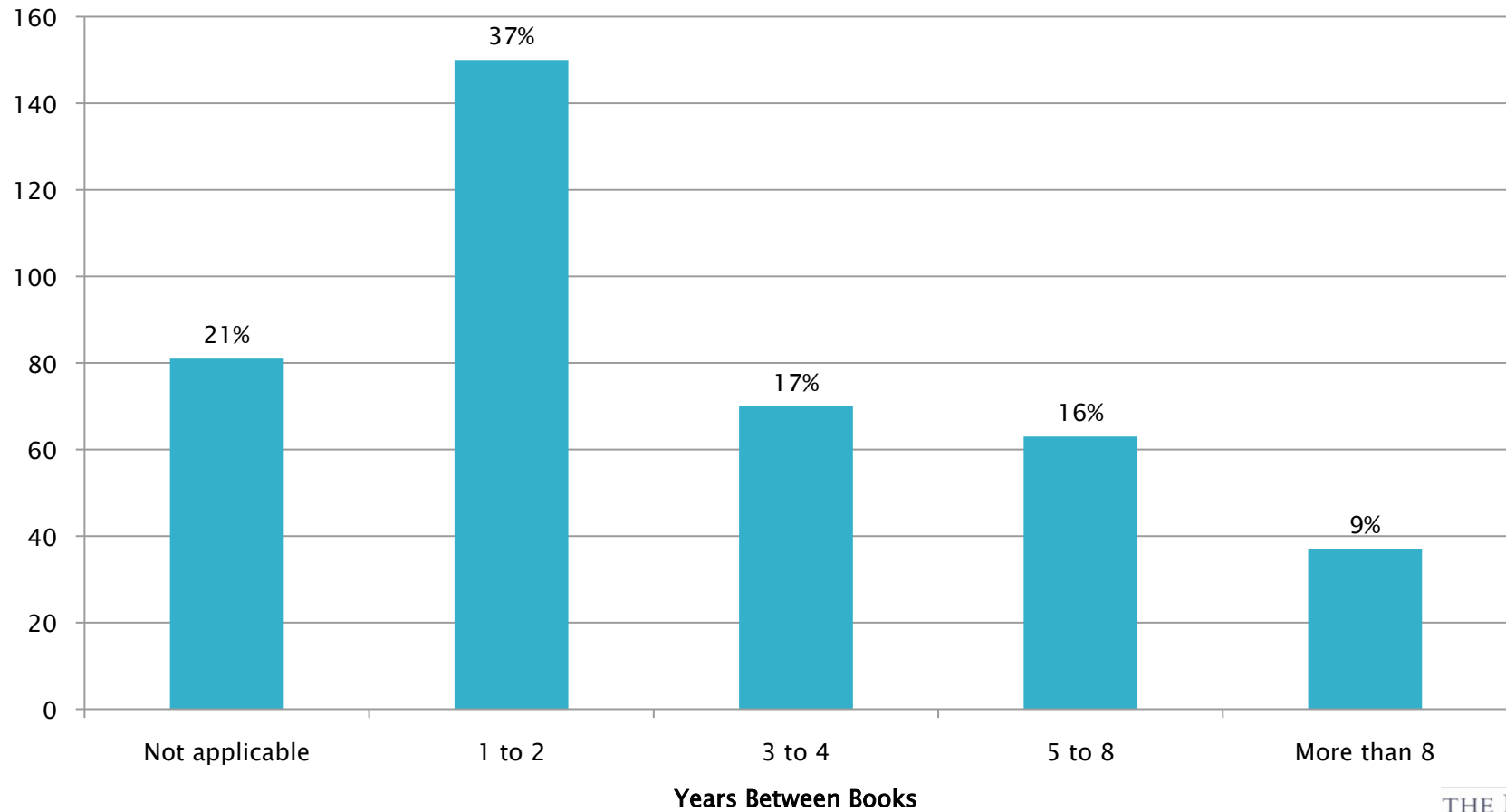
Question 7: Disciplines of Study in Addition to Creative Writing



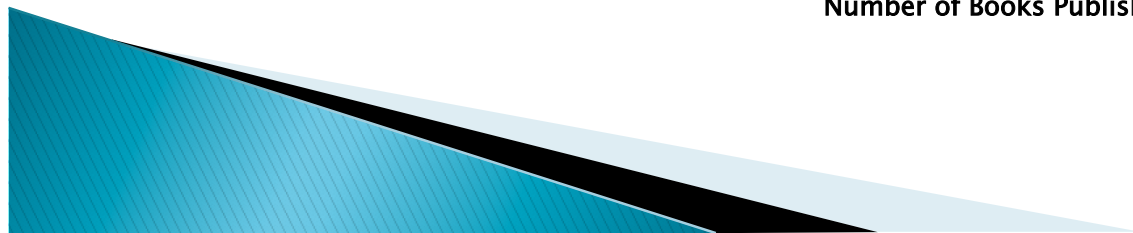
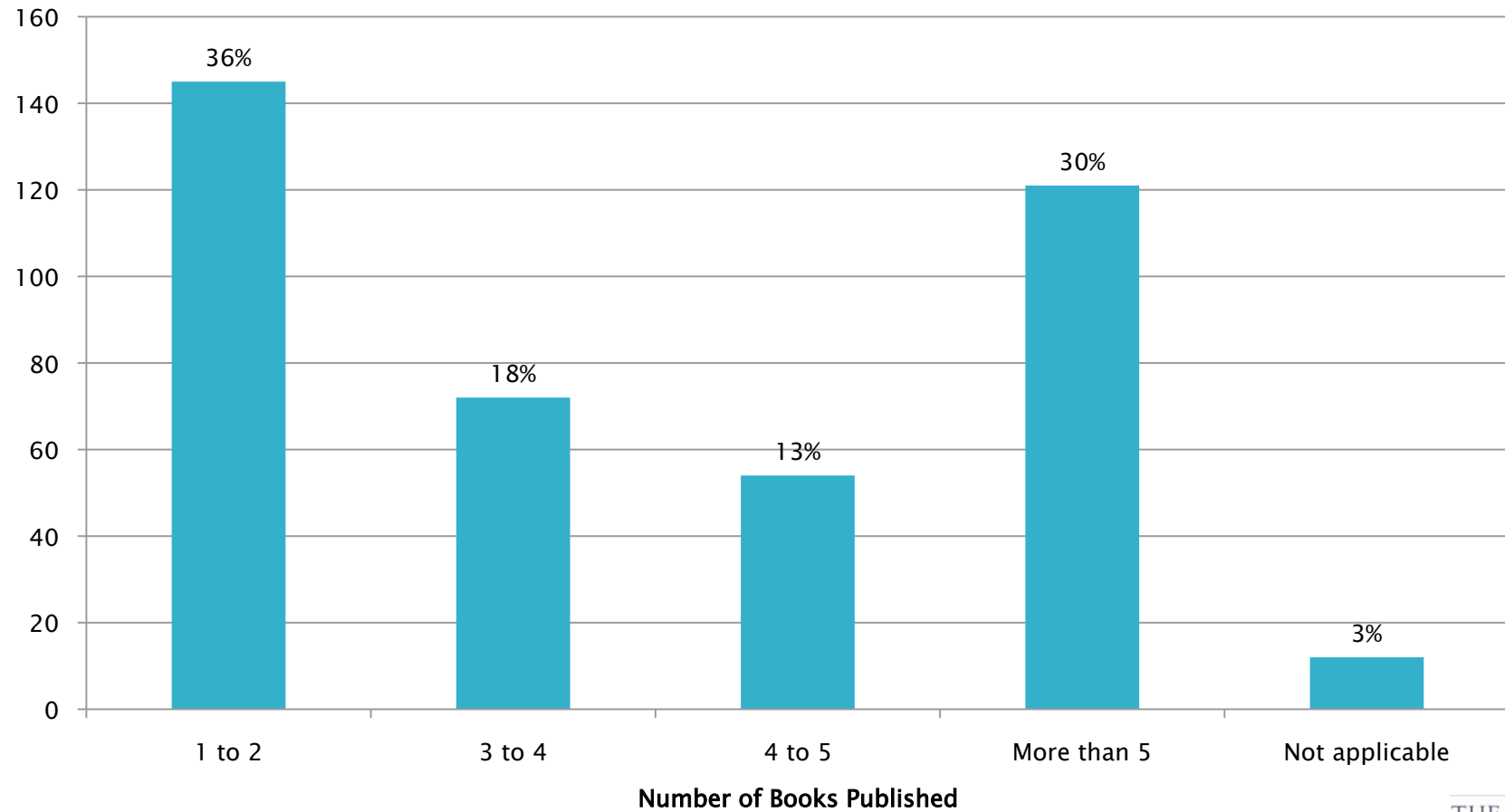
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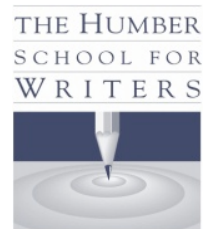
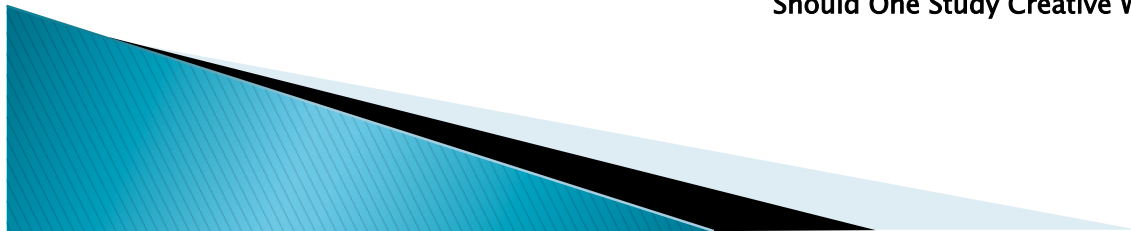
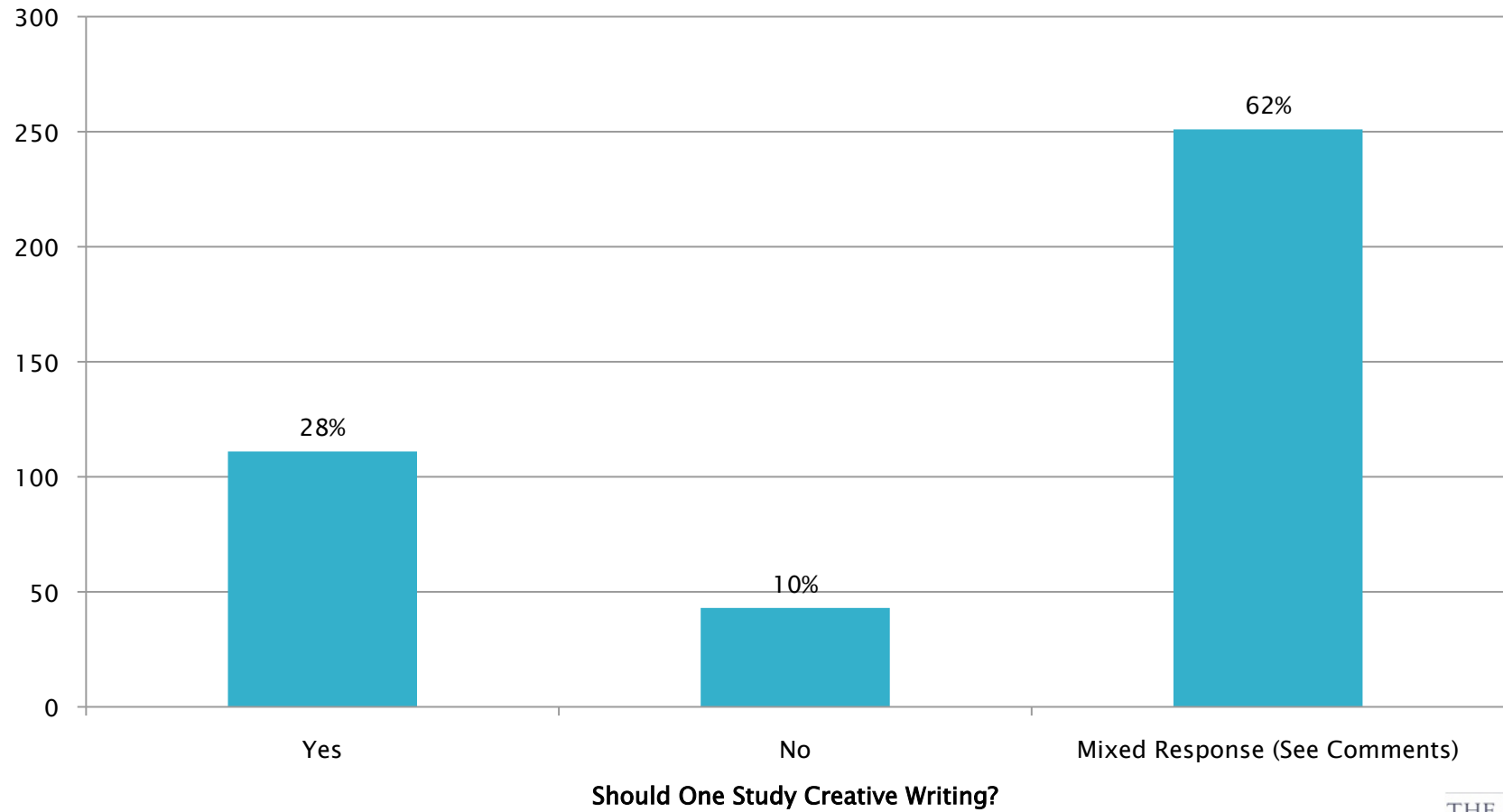
Question 8: Years between First and Second Book



Question 9: Number of Books Published

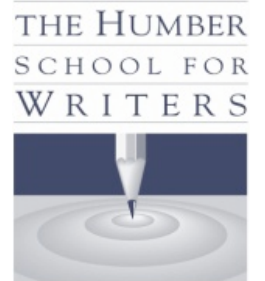


Question 10: Should One Study Creative Writing?



Conclusions

- 1) Age of first time published authors continues to be relatively high at 42 in 2010. Even if writing schools are affecting publishing, those who enter the schools later publish sooner or those who graduate young are taking time to come out in book form. What is not true is that most authors of first books are “young” (as the popular press uses the term).
- 2) The number of authors who did not study creative writing at all before publication is still higher than the number of those who did. On the other hand, almost half of all published writers have indeed studied creative writing.
- 3) The “should” of “Should one study creative writing?” remains complicated. The majority of authors questioned chose to respond with commentary when asked to advise for or against the study of creative writing.



Additional Information

- ▶ The detailed answers written in to question 10 will be published below in a separate pdf.

