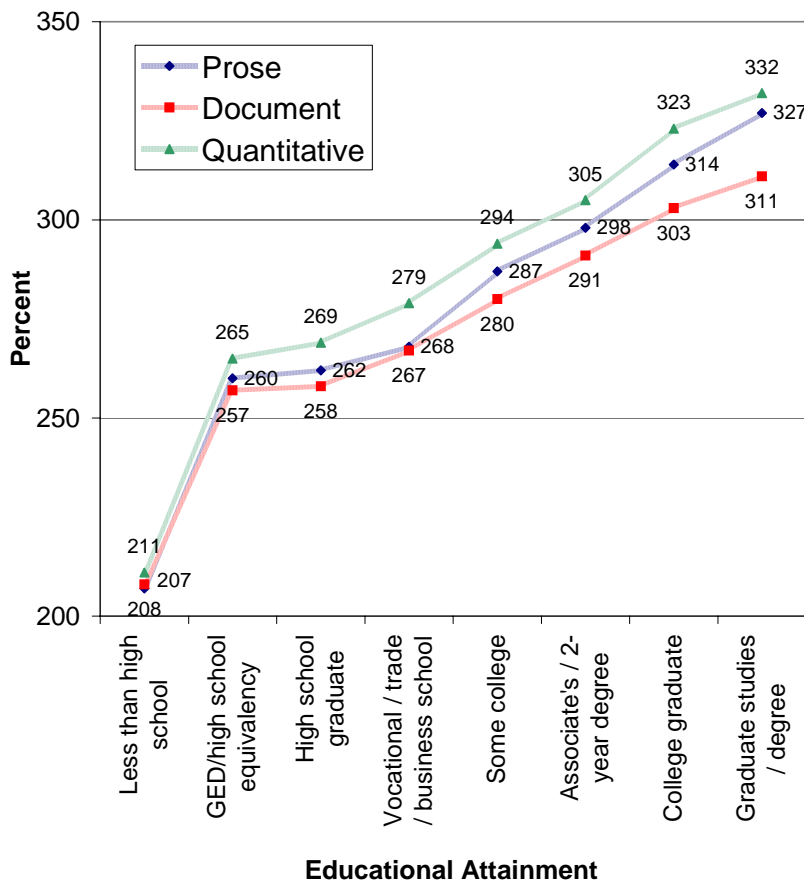


High School and GED Graduates Achieve Greatest Literacy Gains Results from the National Assessment of Adult Literacy, 2003

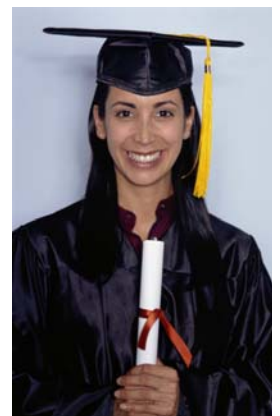
Average Prose, Document, and Quantitative Literacy Scores of Adults, by Educational Attainment, 2003



In December 2005, the National Center for Education Statistics began releasing the results of the 2003 National Assessment of Adult Literacy, the first such assessment in over a decade.

One of the most impressive findings of this study is the dramatic impact on three different types of literacy—prose, document, and quantitative—of earning a high school or GED diploma. When the incremental impact of different levels of educational attainment is examined (see chart at left), it is clear that by far the largest literacy gains are made when someone either graduates from high school or passes the GED (high school equivalency) tests.

Notably, whether the individual earns a high school or a GED diploma, the gains are almost identical—an increase in all three literacy scores of around 50 points. No other single interval of educational attainment is associated with a gain of even half as many points.



High School and GED Graduates Achieve Greatest Literacy Gains
Results from the National Assessment of Adult Literacy, 2003

SOURCE

A First Look at the Literacy of America's Adults in the 21st Century. Statistical Analysis Report, National Center for Education Statistics, December 15, 2005. NCES 2006-470. Available online at: <http://nces.ed.gov/NAAL/PDF/2006470.PDF>.

CONTACT INFORMATION

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