



Amber the Librarian's Word-Count Calculator

The YWP allows your students to set personal word-count goals that are less than 50,000.

So how many words should you expect your students to write?

Below is a chart with average word-count goals broken down by grade level. If you are teaching the lower grades (K – 3rd Grade) it might be best to write a collaborative novel and to set a collaborative word-count goal.

By the time students hit 10th grade, most highly motivated students will be capable of cranking out 50,000 words in a month.

This is wildly variable depending on what kind of students you have. An honors class will probably be able to handle more, while special education and ESL students may have much more modest goals at the same grade level. At the same time, AP classes may be overloaded with other writing assignments, as well as college admissions essays, and therefore may need you to cut them a break on the number of words they are expected to write.

Grade Level	Minimum	Maximum
1	300	3,000
2	2,000	4,500
3	3,000	6,000
4	4,000	8,000
5	5,000	10,000
6	6,000	12,000
7	7,000	15,000
8	8,000	20,000
9	9,000	35,000
10	10,000	40,000
11	11,000	50,000
12	12,000	50,000