

## Possible Answers for Textual Descriptions of Tables

1. The description begins with a sentence introducing the table, including the title and general content of the table.
2. Not all of the information is mentioned – only that which stands out or which shows a trend.
3. The main verb is *displays* in the simple present tense. Other possibilities are *shows, includes, reveals, etc.*
4. *Wrote, assigned, gave.* These are all in the simple past. The simple past is appropriate here because these sentences describe how students responded in the past, when completing their narratives.
5. *Suggest* and *are changing.* These are in the simple present and present continuous.
6. The simple present is used to introduce the table as it currently appears on the printout (or in another document). The simple past is used to describe how people responded at a past time when they completed the narrative. The simple present or present continuous is used to describe the writer's current interpretation of the data.
7. When describing human behavior, we often use qualifiers, or hedges, since we can never be 100% certain that our interpretation is correct.