

# Letters to the Editor

## Contributors to Educational Leadership

October 9, 1964

Editor, *Educational Leadership*

Dear Mr. Editor:

My curiosity was piqued last year in a meeting of the Publications Committee when someone asked whether our magazine was giving enough opportunity to fresh, new voices or depending too much upon the same group of established authors. So I asked a student assistant to investigate. He surveyed the issues of *Educational Leadership* from September 1952 through May 1964 making a count of the contributions whose authors were identified by name. In all, 1,459 contributions were identified. Of these, 800, or approximately 55%, were by authors whose names appeared only once during the twelve-year span. (See Table 1.)

Table 1. Signed Contributions to *Educational Leadership*—1952-1964

Contributions Per Author	Authors		Total Contributions	
	N	%	N	%
1	800	78.4	800	54.8
2	138	13.5	276	18.9
3	39	3.8	117	8.0
4	17	1.7	68	4.7
5	12	1.2	60	4.1
6	6	0.6	36	2.5
7	2	0.2	14	1.0
8	—	—	—	—
9	2	0.2	18	1.2
10	3	0.3	30	2.1
11	—	—	—	—
12	1	0.1	12	0.8
—	—	—	—	—
28	1	0.1	28	1.9
Total	1021	100.1	1459	100.0

Counting contributors rather than contributions, he identified 1,021 different authors during the period. Of these names 800, or nearly four out of five, appeared only once. Excluding the editor, only 1.4% of the authors appeared more than five times.

If the count is restricted to standard articles, rather than including all identifiable contributions, then 828 authors appear who produced 1,043 articles. Two-thirds of these articles were by one-contribution authors, and seven out of eight authors had only one contribution printed during the period. (See Table 2.)

Table 2. Contribution of Articles to *Educational Leadership*—1952-1964

Articles Per Author	Authors		Total Articles	
	N	%	N	%
1	691	83.5	691	63.3
2	94	11.3	188	18.0
3	23	2.8	69	6.6
4	12	1.4	48	4.7
5	3	0.4	15	1.4
6	4	0.5	24	2.3
7	—	—	—	—
8	1	0.1	8	0.8
Total	828	100.0	1043	100.1

Whether these proportions represent an acceptable balance between emerging writers and established authors, I suppose each person must decide for himself. To me it seems to be an excellent record.

Sincerely yours,  
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