

Scoring Rubrics for Writing

GRADES 2–12, WRITING RUBRIC 0–3

Write About—Student will write two sentences to describe who/what is in a picture and what is happening.

Write Why—Student will make a choice and write two reasons in support of that decision. (Do you prefer rain or snow?)

Score	Descriptors of Scores
0 Minimal or No Communication	ERRORS PREVENT COMMUNICATION
	No English word
	“I don’t know”
	A repetition of an earlier response
	The only clear English word(s) are copied from the item prompt or environmental print
	Isolated English words in a response that is otherwise incomprehensible
	A clearly off-topic response
	Response is incomprehensible For Write About : no recognizable sentence structure
1 Beginning Communication	ERRORS INTERFERE WITH COMMUNICATION
	For Write About : Response includes at least rudimentary sentence structure subject/verb (“The 3 student is”) (“The teacher explication a student”)
	For Write Why : Response provides at least one reasonable answer to the question “why?” not necessarily in a full sentence
	Only one response written (may be a general response) and it satisfies the task with or without error
	Two responses written, and one or both satisfy the task but with serious errors that interfere with communication (spelling, missing words, incorrect words)
	May also be two general responses Response may be in rudimentary sentence structure
2 Basic Communication	ERRORS DO NOT IMPEDE UNDERSTANDING
	Two responses that clearly satisfy the task with one or more grammatical errors
	Two fluent responses that both satisfy the task and contain numerous mechanical errors (may include one general response)
3 Effective Communication	FLUENT COMMUNICATION
	Two fluent responses that effectively communicate and may contain only a few minor mechanical errors (missing periods, incorrect or missing capitals, run-on sentences caused by overuse of “and,” comma splices, extra or missing commas or apostrophes, and minor spelling errors that do not confuse the meaning)
	For Write About : Complete sentence required For Write Why : No complete sentence required

GRADES 2–12, WRITING RUBRIC 0–4

Write in Detail—Student will write a short composition.

Score	Descriptors of Scores
0	One of the following:
	Response entirely in a language other than English (HL)
	Response in English that does not relate to the prompt, including “I don’t know”
	Response with no correctly spelled English word
	A single English word or only words copied from the item prompt or environmental print
	An off-topic response
1 Limited Words	Response is an attempt to satisfy the task and relates very minimally to the prompt
	Response contains at least one or more correctly spelled substantive English words (noun or verb) in phrases (a group of words related to each other that convey some meaning or thought but are not expressed in a complete manner)
	Response contains no complete sentence because subject or verb is missing or incomplete
	Overall communication is unclear and unconnected, typical of a student who has emergent vocabulary
2 Sentence Structure	Response is an attempt to satisfy the task and relates at least minimally to the prompt with limited expression compared to a native writer
	Response contains at least one or more English sentences that include subject and complete verb although grammar and spelling may be incorrect and punctuation may be lacking
	Response may need to be read several times to be understood
	Response may contain digressions, repetitions, limited vocabulary, or errors in grammar, word choice, spelling, and punctuation that interfere with all or part of the communication
3 Basic Communication	Expresses content, description, action, and/or dialog clearly and yet with difficulty compared to a native writer
	Expresses most ideas clearly but lacks the grammatical fluency of a mainstream writer
	Response may contain digressions, repetitions, missing words, or errors in vocabulary, grammar, spelling, and punctuation that do not impede overall communication
	Sentences may be run-on and connected by “and” or “and then”
4 Native-like Writing	Communication is clear and complete throughout with no errors in vocabulary or grammar that identify a non-native writer. Expresses ideas, content, description, action, and/or dialog with precise vocabulary and ease approaching a native writer
	Sentences may be simple or complex with only minor digressions, repetitions, or mechanical and grammatical errors which are acceptable in first-draft work
	Any minor errors or digressions do not interfere with the overall ease of expression or clarity of thought
	Differences in handwriting do not interfere with clarity of communicative intent