



Writing | Assessment Tools

WRI-17 Assessing Writing



Blackline Master available www.tpri.org

Teachers in the same grade level create a writing rubric tool for consistency in student writing evaluation.

MATERIALS: Samples of student writing, chart paper, marker

- ① To develop a scoring rubric for writing assessment, meet with your grade-level peers. As a group, review a collection of benchmark writing samples of student work. Determine your scoring criteria and categories. Performing this task as a group creates more consistency in assessing student writing, and in analyzing writing scores across the grade level.
- Once an assessment rubric is developed, it can be used over the course of the school year to assess specific student strengths and weaknesses, and plan instruction accordingly. The assessment should be utilized three to five times during the school year to set instructional goals and track individual student progress toward mastery.
- 3 After assessing students' writing, compile the names of students who need instruction in specific areas on the rubric: Ideas and Organization, Grammar and Language, Mechanics. Determine which concepts/skills should be taught to the entire class and which should be part of small group instruction to students with similar needs.
- 4 Following instruction, students need ample opportunities to practice new skills while receiving assistance and corrective feedback. When students struggle with a particular skill, provide further instruction before the cycle is repeated with a new skill.

EXAMPLE:

	Writing Rubric												
Ī	Area Assessed	d 1	☑ 2	☑ 3									
Ideas and Organization	Addresses the Subject of the Writing	Writer does not address the subject	Subject is addressed, but there is little elaboration	Clear purpose and reason for writing									
	Unity and Logical Organization	Sentences often seem unconnected; transitions are poor or non-existent	Reader can follow the sequence, but the writer may jump around	Writing shows a logical flow of ideas; good sequence and use of transitions									
Grammar and Language	Vocabulary	☐ Limited vocabulary	Vocabulary is appropriate; some strong word choices	Rich use of words; vocabulary shows elaboration									
	Sentence Completion	Mostly run-ons and fragments	Simple sentences with little variety	☐ Variety in sentences; compound sentences									
	Grammar Usage	☐ Consistently incorrect	Partially correct; some errors	Consistent, accurate use; very few errors									
Mechanics	Capitalization Usage (beginning of sentences, proper nouns, etc.)	☐ Consistently incorrect	Partially correct; some errors	Consistent, accurate use; very few errors									
	Punctuation Marks Usage	☐ Consistently incorrect	Partially correct; some errors	Consistent, accurate use; very few errors									
	Spelling	Consistently incorrect (over 10% errors)	Partially correct; some errors (5-10% errors)	Consistent, accurate use (0-5% errors)									

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Comments:

Mechanics			Grammar and Language		Ideas and Organization				
Spelling	Punctuation Marks Usage	Capitalization Usage (beginning of sentences, proper nouns, etc.)	Grammar Usage	Sentence Completion	Vocabulary	Unity and Logical Organization	Addresses the Subject of the Writing	Area Assessed	
Consistently incorrect (over 10% errors)	☐ Consistently incorrect	Consistently incorrect	☐ Consistently incorrect	Mostly run-ons and fragments	☐ Limited vocabulary	Sentences often seem unconnected; transitions are poor or non-existent	Writer does not address the subject	1	Writi
Partially correct; some errors (5-10% errors)	Partially correct; some errors	Partially correct; some errors	Partially correct; some errors	Simple sentences with little variety	Vocabulary is appropriate; some strong word choices	Reader can follow the sequence, but the writer may jump around	Subject is addressed, but there is little elaboration	y 2	Writing Rubric
Consistent, accurate use (0-5% errors)	☐ Consistent, accurate use; very few errors	☐ Consistent, accurate use; very few errors	☐ Consistent, accurate use; very few errors	☐ Variety in sentences; compound sentences	Rich use of words; vocabulary shows elaboration	Writing shows a logical flow of ideas; good sequence and use of transitions	Clear purpose and reason for writing	3	