

# Writing Proficiency Score Standards 1997-2002

Holistic scores are used in reporting the scores of students on the writing sample. Holistic scoring yields a single score based on overall student performance rather than on an accumulation of points. Each writing sample is rated independently by two trained readers. Each reader assigns a rating of 1 to 6. The ratings of both readers are then averaged to produce a holistic score for the student. The holistic scores are then averaged to produce a mean holistic score for the school, district or state.

## WRITING SCORING CRITERIA

Score	Score Criteria Description
6	Response is complete and superior in development, with fine use of language and mechanics. The writing is clearly focused on a topic and is logical and well developed. There is a clear sense of voice, purpose, and audience. Balance, precise vocabulary, and sophistication set this response apart.
5	Response is clear and well organized. There is a clear sense of purpose and few errors in mechanics or language. There is logical development of a topic. Response shows a good command of language, with spelling errors on above grade level words only. This response is balanced and complete.
4	Response is completely organized and developed with adequate use of language and mechanics. The piece follows an organizational plan to closure. Development may be brief with few examples, but it is focused on a topic. Vocabulary is good, and common words are spelled correctly.
3	Response is somewhat developed. Frequent errors in mechanics and language detract from the whole. There is some focus on a topic, though lapses in logic or balance may occur.
2	Response is poor. Errors in language and mechanics may obscure the meaning. There is little evidence of focus on a topic or of an organized plan. Poor vocabulary and spelling inhibit understanding.

<b>1</b>	Response is scarcely coherent. Errors obscure the meaning. There is no balance, little or no logic, or attention to the topic.
<b>0</b>	Response is illegible, off topic, primarily in another language, or the sample is insufficient for evaluation.
<b>Omitted</b>	No response given. This is not scored as zero.