

Writing Task – Learning something new

Written Production & Written Interaction (text level)

Assess the student's writing according to the guidelines below and the criteria on the following pages.

Guidelines

- The grade given within each criterion should be based on a global assessment of the text: strong, intermediate, weak; with no intermediate scores other than those given.
- Give 0 points for all criteria in the following cases:
 - The whole answer is not comprehensible.
 - The content is not relevant to the instruction.
 - The student wrote fewer than 15 words.
- Ignore words that are not in English.

Content

Two criteria are assessed for content: Relevance and Cohesion

Relevance (RE)

In Relevance the marker is looking for a text that is on topic.

3 pts Strong (the text is completely on topic)

1 pt Intermediate (the text is partially on topic)

0 pts Weak (the text is not at all on topic or the student only copies instructions)

If you give 0 points for relevance, give 0 points for all other criteria.

Cohesion (CO)

A text with a strong level of cohesion is written in a logical order.

It might have:

- an introductory sentence
- a concluding sentence
- adverbs of sequence (e.g., first, second, then, later)
- conjunctions (e.g., although, because, therefore, but)

3 pts Strong (the text has a high level of cohesion)

1 pt Intermediate (the text has partial cohesion)

0 pts Weak (the text has no cohesion)

Vocabulary (VO)

In Vocabulary the marker is looking for:

- correct and varied use of words
- appropriate use of lexical chunks and phrases with their prepositions (e.g., phrasal verbs, collocations, idioms)

4 pts Strong (appropriate and varied use of words)

2 pts Intermediate (some words are not used appropriately AND / OR the vocabulary is not varied enough)

0 pts Weak (many words are not used appropriately)

Language Accuracy (LA)

In Language Accuracy the marker is looking for:

- correct sentence structure
- correct use of tenses, form of the verb, subject-verb agreement, modals
- correct use of parts of speech, articles, singular and plural words
- correct word order
- correct use of pronouns

3 pts Strong (mainly good grammar)

1 pt Intermediate

0 pts Weak (very poor grammar)

Mechanics (ME)

In Mechanics the marker is looking for correct spelling, punctuation, and capitalization.

Note: If the student misspelled the same word more than once, consider as a single error.

3 pts Strong (only a few mechanics errors)

1 pt Intermediate

0 pts Weak (many mechanics errors)

Text Length (TL)

In Text Length count all words (including a, the, etc.)

9 pts The student wrote **at least 68 words**

3 pts The student wrote **50-67 words**

0 pts The student wrote **49 words or fewer**

See Appendix for scoring examples of the text level writing task (pages 5-6).

Appendix

Written Production & Written Interaction

Text Level Scoring Examples

Example 1

I would like to express my opinion about something that i would like to learn in school.

I would like to learn Spanish in school for a several reasons:

First, the language Spanish is popular all over the world, if we will learn English and Spanish in school we will be able to talk almost in all over the world.

Second, we can learn it by a teacher in school who will give us vacbuary to learn and missions about the language.

Therd, learn how to speak Spanish is very important to me, bacause a lot of times I am trying to get connected with people from Spain and they don't know how to speak English.

To sum up, I think that learn Spanish can really help in our life and there is a very easy way to do it.

Criteria	Possible Values	Value Given	Reason
Relevance (RE)	0,1,3	3	On topic.
Cohesion (CO)	0,1,3	3	The text has cohesion. There is an introduction, and use of 'First', 'Second', and 'Therd'. The conclusion is introduced with the words 'To sum up'.
Vocabulary (VO)	0,2,4	2	Errors in several lexical chunks: to talk almost in all over the world (to talk to almost the whole world), by a teacher (with/from a teacher), a lot of times (a lot of the time), to get connected with (to connect with). Vocabulary errors: missions about (assignments).

Criteria	Possible Values	Value Given	Reason
Language Accuracy (LA)	0,1,3	3	Three grammar errors: a several reasons (no indefinite article), learn how to speak, learn Spanish (learning), in our life (in our lives).
Mechanics (ME)	0,1,3	3	One error in capitalization: i. On the whole punctuation is good. Just three spelling errors: vacbulary, Therd, bacause.
Text Length (TL)	0,3,9	9	Student wrote more than 68 words.

Example 2

I think that we should learn economics in school. I think that we should know from a young age how our country works and what are our duties and privileges as adults. I think that learning this subject will make our lives a lot easier in the future and will help the students avoid making mistakes as grown ups. Also, I think this subject will not be difficult to add to our education system. Because, many people are very familiar with it, and are capable of teaching it in a high level.

Criteria	Possible Values	Value Given	Reason
Relevance (RE)	0,1,3	3	On topic.
Cohesion (CO)	0,1,3	3	Text has cohesion. The text develops logically.
Vocabulary (VO)	0,2,4	4	Appropriate and varied vocabulary. One lexical chunk error: in a high level (at a high level).
Language Accuracy (LA)	0,1,3	3	Good grammar. One error: the students (delete 'the').
Mechanics (ME)	0,1,3	1	No capitalization errors. Generally good punctuation throughout but three errors relating to the last sentence: there shouldn't be a full stop before 'Because', there shouldn't be commas after 'Because' or before 'and'. Two spelling errors: privileges (privileges), grown ups (grown-ups or grownups).
Text Length (TL)	0,3,9	9	Student wrote more than 68 words.

Example 3

School teach us many things, math, english, science and much more.

But have you ever felt like school doesn't teach you the things youll need to know for real life?

In my opinion there are many things we need to know that school doesn't teach us, the main one is how to control our money.

In less then 3 years ill be done with school and like everybody else I will start living my adult life, but wait, how do I make money? How do I pay the bills? How do I buy smartly? That's right, 12 years of school and I don't even know the first thing about it.

In conclusion, school theach us many things but have you ever asked yourself, does it teaches me the right things? Never mine at list I learned about "The road not taken".

Criteria	Possible Values	Value Given	Reason
Relevance (RE)	0,1,3	3	On topic.
Cohesion (CO)	0,1,3	3	Text has cohesion. An introduction, development of ideas, conclusion.
Vocabulary (VO)	0,2,4	4	Vocabulary is appropriate.
Language Accuracy (LA)	0,1,3	1	Some grammar errors: teach us (teaches), youll (you or you'll), ill (I'll), it (them, these things), theach (teaches), teaches (teach).
Mechanics (ME)	0,1,3	1	One capitalization error: english. Four spelling errors: then (than), theach, mine (mind), list (least). Some punctuation errors: teach us, the main (full stop not comma); but wait, how (But wait! How...).

Text Length (TL)	0,3,9	9	Student wrote more than 68 words.
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Example 4

I would like to learn how to make food.

My mother is the only one cooking at home and she is doing all the time the same food.

I want to help her and learn to make new food.

We can do a class in school that is for cooking and a teacher that is good at cooking.

I think that it is important for everyone to know how to cook.

Criteria	Possible Values	Value Given	Reason
Relevance (RE)	0,1,3	3	On topic.
Cohesion (CO)	0,1,3	1	Partial cohesion. Lacking markers, such as 'because', 'therefore', which would have given cohesion.
Vocabulary (VO)	0,2,4	0	Very limited vocabulary with many words used inappropriately: make food (cook/prepare food or make dinner), doing...the same food (making), learn to make new food (learn how to cook new dishes/recipes), do a class (have).
Language Accuracy (LA)	0,1,3	1	Several grammar errors. Word order: doing all the time the same food (making the same food all the time). Missing verb: and a teacher (and have a teacher). Other errors: that is good (who is).
Mechanics (ME)	0,1,3	3	No errors in spelling, capitalization or punctuation.
Text Length (TL)	0,3,9	9	Student wrote more than 68 words.

Example 5

I don't like to learn, I dont want to go to school.

Criteria	Possible Values	Value Given	Reason
Relevance (RE)	0,1,3	0	
Cohesion (CO)	0,1,3	0	
Vocabulary (VO)	0,2,4	0	
Language Accuracy (LA)	0,1,3	0	
Mechanics (ME)	0,1,3	0	
Text Length (TL)	0,3,9	0	Fewer than 15 words. Zero given for all criteria.

Example 6

The most important thing in school for all kids is the math class. You can learn it with a teacher or by myself. It is important to get good jobs when I will be old. I want to learn it because it is important.

Criteria	Possible Values	Value Given	Reason
Relevance (RE)	0,1,3	0	The content is not relevant to the instruction. Give zero for all criteria.
Cohesion (CO)	0,1,3	0	
Vocabulary (VO)	0,2,4	0	
Language Accuracy (LA)	0,1,3	0	
Mechanics (ME)	0,1,3	0	
Text Length (TL)	0,3,9	0	