

Grades 2–12

Writing Collection Overview

2016-2017



Texas Education Agency
Student Assessment Division

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Grades 2–12

Assessment Approach

Writing

- Raters assemble a collection of each student's writing from a variety of content areas.
- Raters base the English writing proficiency ratings on the contents of the collections.
- Additional classroom observations are not used.

Goal in Assembling Writing Collections

**To make sure the collections portray
the students' overall English language
writing proficiency**

Important!

Writing Activities

**TELPAS writing samples should be taken
from authentic classroom activities
grounded in**

- **content area TEKS**
- **ELPS**



February 13, 2017

- Writing assigned on or after February 13, 2017 may be considered.
- Writing samples may continue to be gathered until the date designated by the district as the deadline for completing the collections in order to submit the ratings.



Samples Required

- At least 5 total samples are required in each collection.
- In each collection there must be
 - at least 1 writing sample that elicits the use of past tense
 - at least 2 writing samples from math, science, or social studies



Some Eligible Types of Writing

- Descriptive writing on a familiar topic
- Writing about a familiar process
- Writing that elicits the use of past tense
- Personal narratives and reflective pieces
- Expository and other extended writing from language arts classes
- Expository or procedural writing from science, math, and social studies classes



Papers Not to Include

- Papers containing copied language
- Papers in which student relies heavily on resources (dictionary, thesaurus, etc.)
- Papers showing teacher comments and corrections
- Worksheets and question-answer assignments
- Papers that have been polished with help from peers or teachers
- Papers written primarily in student's native language
- Papers that are brief, incomplete, or rushed

Building Collections

- Strive to gather more than 5 writing samples for each student.
- Choose at least 5 samples that meet the criteria and do the best job of portraying the student's current proficiency level.
- If a student is near the border between two proficiency levels, consider including samples written in the latter part of the TELPAS assessment window. The more recent the writing samples, the more accurately they will reflect the proficiency level of these students.

Building Collections

- Collections should contain some papers in which students showcase English they know and feel comfortable using. “Comfort zone” writing is especially important for students at lower proficiency levels.
- Collections should also include papers in which students are stretched and pushed beyond their comfort zone so the collection shows that a student has not yet reached the next level (the student is beginning but not yet intermediate, intermediate but not yet advanced, advanced but not yet advanced high).

Building Collections

- The papers you assemble need to help you determine and justify your ratings. They must give you evidence to say, “I know the student is at least at X proficiency level because of these characteristics in his or her writing. I know the student is not yet at the next proficiency level because of these other characteristics in his or her writing.”

Reminder: The characteristics you consider must come from the PLDs.



Beginning Level

- The ELPS require ELLs of all proficiency levels to learn to write in English.
- It is not acceptable for writing collections of students at the beginning level to include samples written primarily in the native language. Such samples do not provide evidence of English writing proficiency.
- Writing tasks of these students should be adapted to their needs. Their writing in English will likely be formulaic or memorized, include recently practiced vocabulary, lack detail, etc.

Summarizing Tips

- Students who are capable of expressing themselves in English in a detailed, extended way should do so. Do not include brief responses from students who know enough English to respond to writing tasks in extended ways.
- In other words, consider students' English-language proficiency levels in determining whether papers are too brief to be included.

Summarizing Tips

- Build writing collections that have a balance of writing from language arts and other core content areas.
- Collections should show what the student knows and can do as well as what the student struggles with in second language acquisition.
- Remember, build the collections to portray the student's overall ability to communicate in writing in English.

Verification of Collection Contents

Campuses follow procedures outlined in the TELPAS Rater Manual to ensure that the writing collections are assembled correctly and include the necessary number and types of writing.



Resources with More Details

- *District and Campus Coordinator Manual*
 - Updated annually and available in late fall from TEA's Student Assessment website
 - Shipped to districts in January
- *TELPAS Rater Manual*
 - Updated annually and available in late fall from TEA's Student Assessment website
 - Shipped to districts in January
- Online course titled *Assembling and Verifying Grades 2–12 Writing Collections*
 - Available online January 18 in the TELPAS Online Training Center