

Oklahoma Core Curriculum Test: Fifth and Eighth Grade Writing Test Rubric

Each piece of student writing is given five analytic scores that focus on specific writing skills. These ratings range from 4 (the highest score) to 1 (the lowest score). Taken together, these scores provide a profile of the specific strengths and weaknesses of a student's writing. The following are the actual scoring rubrics used to assign the five analytic scores.

Score	Ideas and Development—30%
4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The content is well suited for the audience, task, and mode • The focus is clear and maintained • Ideas are fully developed and elaborated using details, examples, reasons, or evidence • The writing expresses a clear, consistent perspective throughout the composition
3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The content is adequate for the audience, task, and mode • The focus is evident but may lack clarity • Ideas are developed using some details, examples, reasons, and/or evidence • The writing sustains the perspective throughout most of the composition
2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The content is inconsistent with the audience, task, and mode • The focus may be unclear or leaves the reader with questions and making inferences • Ideas are minimally developed with few details • May simply be a list of ideas • The writing has difficulty expressing or maintaining a perspective
1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The content is irrelevant to the audience, task, and mode • The focus may be confusing or missing • Ideas lack development or may be repetitive • The writing lacks perspective

Score	Organization, Unity and Coherence—25%
4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introduction engages the reader • Sustained or consistent focus • Logical and appropriate sequencing and balanced with smooth, effective transitions • Order and structure are strong and move the reader through the text • Conclusion is satisfying
3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Evident introduction • Adequate focus • Adequate sequencing • Stays on topic with little digression • Uses limited but effective transitions • Order and structure are present • Conclusions is appropriate
2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • May lack clear organizational structure • Weak evidence of unity • Little or limited sequencing and/or transitions • Details may be randomly placed
1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lacks logical direction • No evidence of organizational structure

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Score	Word Choice—15%
4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Appropriate word choice which conveys the correct meaning and appeals to the audience in an interesting, precise, and natural way • The writing may be characterized by, but not limited to <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Lively Verbs ○ Vivid Nouns ○ Imaginative adjectives ○ Figurative language ○ Dialogue • No vague, overused, repetitive language is used (a lot, greatly, very, really) • Words that evoke strong images such as sensory language • Ordinary words used in an unusual way
3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Words generally convey the intended message • The writing includes a variety of words that are appropriate but do not necessarily energize the writing • The writing may be characterized by <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Attempts at figurative language ○ Some use of lively verbs, vivid nouns and imaginative adjectives ○ Few vague, overused, and repetitive words are used
2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Word choice lacks precision and variety or may be inappropriate to the audience and purpose • May be simplistic and/or vague • Relies on overused or vague language (a lot, great, very, really) • Few attempts at figurative language and dialogue • Word choice is unimaginative and colorless with images that are unclear or absent
1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Word choice indicates an extremely limited or inaccurate vocabulary • No attempts at figurative language • General, vague words that fail to communicate meaning • Text may be too short to demonstrate variety

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Score	Sentences and Paragraphs—15%
4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Writing clearly demonstrates appropriate sentence structure • Writing has few or no run-on or fragment errors • Writing has a rich variety of sentence structure, types, and lengths • Ideas are organized into paragraphs that blend into larger text • Writing shows evidence of appropriate paragraphing
3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Writing adequately demonstrates appropriate sentence structure • Writing may contain a small number of run on or fragment errors that do not interfere with fluency • Writing has adequate variety of sentence structure • Ideas are organized into paragraphs
2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Writing demonstrates lack of control in sentence structure • Writing contains errors such as run-ons and fragments that interfere with fluency • Writing has limited variety of sentence structure • Writing may show little or no attempt at paragraphing
1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Writing demonstrates inappropriate sentence structure • Writing contains many errors in structure (run-ons, fragments) • Writing has no variety in structure • Writing displays no attempt at paragraphing • Text may be too short to demonstrate use of sentences or paragraphs

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Score	Grammar, Usage and Mechanics—15%
4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The writing demonstrates appropriate use of correct <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Spelling ○ Punctuation ○ Capitalization ○ Grammar ○ Usage • Errors are minor and do not affect readability
3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The writing demonstrates adequate use of correct <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Spelling ○ Punctuation ○ Capitalization ○ Grammar ○ Usage • Errors may be more noticeable but do not significantly affect readability
2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The writing demonstrates limited use of correct <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Spelling ○ Punctuation ○ Capitalization ○ Grammar ○ Usage • Errors may be distracting and interfere with readability
1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The writing demonstrates minimal use of correct <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Spelling ○ Punctuation ○ Capitalization ○ Grammar ○ Usage • Errors are numerous and severely impeded readability