

# Writing Prompts

---

The Writing Prompts are an important assessment and reflection of each student's progress throughout the school year.

This year, Writing Prompts will be administered to students in grades one through five, three times during the school year: September, January and June. Writing Prompts will be administered to students in kindergarten in January and June.

At the completion of each prompt, each piece is scored using the grade appropriate four-point rubric. The papers are scored for following six traits of writing. These rubrics are available on this site.

- **Ideas** – The writer's ability to provide information with clarity, detail and creativity so to paint a picture in the readers' mind.
- **Organization** – The writer's ability to put information and thoughts together in an easy to follow piece which holds the reader's attention.
- **Voice** – The voice is what holds the reader's attention and makes the piece interesting. It is through the use of voice that the writer brings the information to life.
- **Word Choice** – The writer's ability to use proper phrasing and terminology that is clear and precise, provides a vivid image, is original, concise, use strong verbs, etc.
- **Sentence Fluency** – This is the rhythm of the piece which makes it easy and enjoyable to read. If the writer uses sentence fluency effectively, there is a combination of sentence length and structure to hold the reader's attention.
- **Conventions** – The writers' ability to use correct spelling, punctuation, capitalization, paragraphing and grammar.

Prior to the administration of the Writing Prompt, the teachers discuss the purpose of the writing piece and review the rubric. The Writing Prompt as a whole class activity and students are encouraged to use the resources in the room such as the *Six Traits* poster, dictionaries both personal and classroom, and the classroom word wall. Teacher and paraprofessional assistance is not permitted with the exception of IEP accommodations.

Each of the three Writing Prompts is completed during two writing blocks. Day 1 – first draft, revising and editing. Day 2 – Copying the final piece. The number of paragraphs will be determined by the grade-level expectations and the testing time of year.

Each final piece is read and scored by the teacher. The information in the areas of the six traits, provided in the *Scoring Summary* and *Comment* section of the grade appropriate rubric, provides each student with valuable feedback on his/her ability as a writer and areas for continued focus and growth.

Sample papers have been provided for the kindergarten through grade five. The scoring template which is located at the top of each piece, provides the student with feedback as to his/her skill as a writer. Four papers at each of the grade levels are available for you to review. These writing samples, two high and two medium papers, reflect the writer's ability based upon the end of year grade level expectations. The codes on the top left of each piece (1M4, 2H1) provides confidentially for both the school and student during the scoring process. Each piece has been labeled in cursive as to the grade and performance level.

New pieces will be added to this site after the administration of the June Writing Prompt. We anticipate that the ability of each of our students will improve as a result of the focus and feedback on the six traits of writing and that this improvement will be reflected in the quality of the writing which is posted on the Web in the future.