



## Common Writing Quarterly Assessments 2014-2015

### Frequently Asked Questions

#### **Will this assessment be used for accountability purposes?**

This assessment is intended to be used for instructional purposes, providing teachers and students with an indicator of mastery for standards. This information should be used for planning for instruction and to track student progress towards mastery of the standards.

#### **Why assess at this point in the school year?**

It determines student mastery of the required student learning for each grade level. It assists in planning instruction to adjust and differentiate to ensure students' acquisition of skills by the end of the year. It also provides opportunity for structured collaboration among teachers and schools to further ensure quality instruction and student learning by analyzing the student assessment data.

#### **Why are the writing assessments “on-demand” and not “range of writing”?**

The purpose of the on-demand writing assessment is to provide a snapshot of what a student can do with a particular prompt, limited time and space, and without teacher input (unless the standard recognizes support from the teacher is developmentally appropriate). This assessment does not encompass all the forms of assessment students should experience in writing. The informative standard-referenced writing rubric can be used throughout the school year for instruction and assessment purposes.

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#### **Are all schools required to use this common assessment?**

All schools should give the common quarterly assessment using the common writing rubrics. The rubrics may not align with the new Alaska Standards but we will continue to use the current rubrics until we can revise them to match the new Alaska ELA Standards.

#### **Who will score the assessments?**

Classroom teachers will score the assessments using the common rubrics. We highly encourage teachers to access the Web Based Training available in Generation Ready before scoring their papers.

#### **When should the scores be entered into Power School?**

Teachers should report the scores from the assessment by the end of the grading period.

#### **Should this assessment be used for grading?**

Using the assessment results for grades/reporting is not mandated; however, since this assessment is an extension of the instruction and includes student work samples, it makes sense to use it as part of an assignment/assessment grade.

**The assignments for the assessments are in the grade book. Can parents see them?**

Even though by default, the assignment is not published, the six traits that are observed and recorded are visible on the “standards” tab in the parent portal. Secondary parents most likely will never see them as they typically don’t click on the standards tab. If a teacher elects to have the assignment count towards the final grade, then it would make sense for them also to publish the assignment.

**How often will we administer this assessment?**

Before the quarter is finished a writing assignment will be graded using the grade level 4-point analytic writing rubric. The expectation is that it will be completed and graded by the end of the quarter.

**How will the assessment be administered?**

Teachers will give the writing assignment within the classroom setting.

**Do students with disabilities or English language learners need to take these assessments?**

Students with disabilities and English language learners will take the assessments with their accommodations and modifications in place.

If you have questions, please contact Melissa Linton @ ext. 8861 or [mlinton@kpbsd.org](mailto:mlinton@kpbsd.org)