

Adult Basic Education Program
Guide for Counselors and Instructors



WRITING RUBRIC WITH WRITING SAMPLES



53-03-00.WR
JANUARY 2006

Using the Adult Basic Education Writing Rubric

The ABE Writing Rubric was developed to assist counselors and teachers to evaluate student writing for placement and promotion.

The rubric describes characteristics of student writing at the beginning, intermediate and advanced ABE levels as well as writing that demonstrates a student's readiness to exit the ABE program. Annotated samples of student writing for each of the levels are provided to help guide the counselor or teacher.

Guidelines for Writing Samples:

- A writing sample is an effective tool in helping to place students in the appropriate classes in the ABE program. One of the writing samples included in this guide may be used, or another topic may be assigned by the counselor or teacher.
- If a student scores less than 9.0 on the TABE test, his or her writing sample should be evaluated using the ABE Writing Rubric and student samples. (Writing samples of students scoring above 9.0 are evaluated by the ASE program.)
- Writing samples should be written without any help from teachers, aides, dictionaries or translators. Writing samples should not be corrected.
- A single student writing sample probably will not include all of the characteristics listed for any one of the levels. For example, an intermediate level student writing sample may include one or two characteristics of beginning and advanced writing, but most of the writing will exhibit intermediate characteristics.
- A student's reading score does not always reflect the student's writing ability. It is possible for a student's basic reading level to be higher or lower than his or her writing level.
- It is preferable to underestimate a student's writing ability than to overestimate it. It is easier for a classroom teacher to promote a student to a higher level than it is to move a student down a level.

Adult Basic Education Writing Rubric

	Beginning (53-03-81)	Intermediate (53-03-82)	Advanced (53-03-83)	Exit
Handwriting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Poor letter formation ▪ Inability to write on lines 			
Mechanics Spelling Punctuation Capitalization	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Numerous misspelled words ▪ Many unintelligible words ▪ Little or no punctuation ▪ Little or no capitalization 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Many misspelled words ▪ Some initial cap errors ▪ Many other cap errors ▪ Many end punctuation and comma errors 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Some misspelled words ▪ Few initial cap errors ▪ Few end punctuation errors ▪ Numerous comma errors 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Few misspelled words ▪ No initial cap errors ▪ No end punctuation errors ▪ Some comma errors
Usage & Grammar Subject-verb Verb tense Pronouns Modifiers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Numerous errors that detract from meaning 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Many patterns of errors 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Some patterns of errors 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Few patterns of errors
Vocabulary & Word Choice	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Very limited vocabulary ▪ No variation ▪ Repetition 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Limited vocabulary ▪ Frequent errors in word choice ▪ Lack of precise words greatly evident 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Somewhat varied vocabulary ▪ Some errors in word choice ▪ Lack of precise words still evident 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Varied vocabulary ▪ Few errors in word choice ▪ Occasional lack of precise words
Sentence Construction	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Assortment of incomplete and/or incorrect sentences 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Nearly exclusive use of simple sentences ▪ Little or no sentence variety ▪ Many syntax errors which often interfere with meaning 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Some sentence variety ▪ Some syntax errors occasionally interfere with meaning 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Sentence variety evident ▪ Syntax errors rarely interfere with meaning
Content & Organization	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Minimal response to topic ▪ Lacks fluency & flow ▪ Randomness of thought ▪ No cohesion or unity ▪ Supporting details nonexistent or inappropriate 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Attempt to respond to topic but focus drifts ▪ Some ideas developed using few support details ▪ Inclusion of some unrelated ideas ▪ Effort made to organize ▪ Some fluency or flow ▪ Little or no transitions 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Usually responds to topic ▪ Developed all ideas slightly with some supporting detail ▪ Possible inclusion of unrelated ideas ▪ Some use of transitions 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Responds appropriately to topic ▪ Ideas developed with supporting details ▪ No inclusion of unrelated topics ▪ Frequent/appropriate use of transitions

Beginning Level Writing Samples

Writing Sample A	TABE Score: 1.9	
<p>I like to help pepell around me. because they need help every Time Pepell ask for some think I am there to help I was working with the homeless a lot. I did. the 9 month of the year. and some office work too inside path office.</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Numerous spelling and punctuation errors • Randomness of thought • Lack of fluency and flow • No unity or cohesion • Errors detract from meaning • Limited vocabulary

Writing Sample B	TABE Score: 4.2	
<p>One think i will like to say abut my self is that one of my goals is to stey and scool in to take up ownreshep to have some proptery that is some think i will let you no. Some of my hobbys are sleaping and sports not to many just a few and one other think is to try to stey healty.</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Numerous spelling errors • No attempt to punctuate • No cohesion or unity • Incorrect sentence construction • Limited vocabulary • No supporting details • Minimal response to topic

Writing Sample C	TABE Score: 3.2	
<p>My favrite room is my bedrom a like my bed it is so confertilb a have a t.v. and a feel so relaxin wen a wach t.v. on my bed, also I have a buquet of flowars that when I go in I like the smeling of the flowers.</p> <p>I like my bedroom an I wish I can spend one holl day in it.</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Numerous spelling and punctuation errors • Some unintelligible words • Incorrect sentence construction • Limited vocabulary • Attempt to include supporting detail • Effort made to respond to topic

Intermediate Level Writing Samples

Writing Sample A	TABE Score: 5.5	
<p>I was born in L.A. My family is from South Central America. I attended school for 10 years. Since I drop out of school, I been doing thinks I shoted have. Like desobeying my parents, just hanging arund with my frends. I waisted time and now I reelized is not werth it. When I got fired from my job I reelized I needed some think better. The reason I came here is to finish my High School. So I can get a better job. Or be some body in life.</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Many misspelled words • Limited vocabulary • Frequent errors in word choice • Incorrect sentence construction • No initial capitalization errors but other capitalization errors exist • Attempt to include supporting details • No transitions • Attempt at sentence variety but unable to write correct sentences
Writing Sample B	TABE Score: 6.6	
<p>My name is Hilda. I was born in Mexico in the state of Sonora. I have been in the United State for half of my life. I stop goin to school went a was in Ten grade. I because I was emberace to ask for help It was difficult to me now I see that I need Education to lear more. I have three kids They are Thomas he is seven year old, Nataly she is five year old and teresa she is one year old. The kind of job would I like to work as a cashere. My goal is lear English, write, read.</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Many misspelled words • Many capitalization errors • End punctuation and comma errors • Inability to construct good sentences • Limited vocabulary • Little or no sentence variety • Attempt to respond to topic • Few ideas developed • Some fluency and flow
Writing Sample C	TABE Score: 4.2	
<p>My favorite room is the backyard, because I can read some of my book, lisent to music, help my Mother to put water in garden. And the most importan thing I study. The backyard is quite place, wher you only hear the sound of the bird.</p> <p>Wen I'am in that room I can feel relax and calm, I can feel, everything that God give to us, all the nature thing that we have inculding the animimals.</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Many misspelled words • End punctuation and comma errors • Inability to construct good sentences • Limited vocabulary • Many syntax errors • Attempt to develop ideas with supporting details • Attempt to respond to topic

Advanced Level Writing Samples

Writing Sample A	TABE Score: 6.4	
<p>My favorite room is my bedroom because there is my bed, my television and my radio. My bed is in the corner of my room. the television and the a radio are in front of my bed and the closet is next to the door where there are my cloths and another things</p> <p>I love that room because I sleep there and I've lived good moments with my cousins and my sister, when my friend go to visit me, we stay playing or talking in my bedroom. Another reason is because it is like my small house where I can stay for sevral hours thinking about my problems and where I can study for my exams etc. That's why this is my favorite room.</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Some sentence variety • Several run-on sentences • Lacks varied vocabulary • Few end punctuation errors but many comma errors • Most ideas developed with supporting details • Responds to topic • Effort made to organized ideas • Few syntax errors • Few spelling errors • Some errors in word choice
Writing Sample B	TABE Score: 7.4	
<p>I'm an easygoing person, I love to learn everthing. Some times I don't have time to go to school, since I have 2 children to take care of in two differents schools. Last year I was a Volenter in my son Pre-Kinder class, his teacher encourage me to finish my highschool. Since I like to work with little children, she would like me to be her teacher's Aide. So I'm going to do my best to learn to write read and speak english to complete one of my goals.</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Many spelling errors • Many capitalization errors but no initial capitalization errors • Some sentence variety • Many run-on sentences • Few syntax errors • Some ideas developed with supporting details • Attempt at varied vocabulary
Writing Sample C	TABE Score: 6.8	
<p>The person that has had the most influence in my life, has been my husband. He is older than me, has curly hair, fair skin and a beautiful smile when he's happy. He is slim and vain, he thinks he is the most handsome men when he was young. I met him when I was vary young, he was already mature I never thought that he was going to control my life and change my personality</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Some misspelled words • Varied vocabulary • Many run-on sentences • Some syntax errors • Responds appropriately to topic • Most ideas developed with supporting details

ABE Program Exit Writing Samples

Writing Sample A	TABE Score: 8.6	
<p>I went to school the first 6 years in Puebla State of Mexico, then I went to live with my parents in Mexico City and I studied 3 years at junior high school. After that, I had a goal to finish High School, but I couldn't do it because it was so far from my house and I had to pay for the transportation every day. My parents told me that they couldn't support my education that long. Finally my sisters told me I have to study something easy and quick so I could start working. I studied 3 years at a secretary school and I graduated. I worked for 6 months and I decided to come to this country to get a better life. But one year later I got merried and I stopped study English, but now Im here to start again and finish my high school diploma.</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Few misspelled words• No initial capitalization errors• Somewhat varied vocabulary• Sentence variety evident• Syntax errors rarely interfere with meaning• Writing flows logically• Organization apparent• Some use of transitions• No inclusion of unrelated details• No end punctuation errors• Some comma errors
Writing Sample B	TABE Score: 8.1	
<p>What I want you to know about me is that I want to get my High school diploma, so I could go into the marines. In the Marines I want to be a drill-instructor for 10 years. After 10 years in the marines, I will like to join the police for at least 5-7 years. I was born in California. The job that I would like to have would be someplace that will make me work, but not get me in any injuries. The hobbies that I have are that I like to fix cars, trucks. I also like to shoot in my back yard, and I like to built things out of wood.</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none">• No initial capitalization errors• Several other capitalization errors• No end punctuation errors• Some comma errors• Sentence variety• Appropriate response to topic• Organization apparent• Lacks supporting details• No errors in word choice• Somewhat varied vocabulary• No use of transitions

