

## WRITING CHECKLIST

Parents are encouraged to use this checklist to review their child's writing:

### ORGANIZATION

- My focus is clear.
- My purpose is clearly stated in a topic sentence.
- My ideas are summarized in a conclusion.

### DEVELOPMENT

- My main idea is supported with details and examples.
- My ideas are logically presented.

### SENTENCE STRUCTURE

- My sentences are clear and complete.
- My sentences vary in length and complexity.

### WORD CHOICE/GRAMMAR USAGE

- My word choice is vivid.
- My pronouns, verbs, adjectives and adverbs are used correctly.

### MECHANICS

- My punctuation is correct.
- My capitalization is correct.
- My words are spelled correctly.

#### For additional information please contact:

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State Superintendent of Schools

# Parent Guide

## 2009

## WEST VIRGINIA WESTEST 2 ONLINE WRITING



## Grades 3-11

Office of Assessment and Accountability

Division of Curriculum and  
Instructional Services  
West Virginia Department of Education

## FOREWORD

As West Virginia continues its mission to prepare students to be successful in the 21st century, communication skills are essential. Students must be taught to communicate clearly and effectively through speaking and writing. The West Virginia Board of Education remains committed to improving the writing skills of West Virginia students in preparation for meeting national educational standards, higher educational goals and global economic demands.

Thus, the 2009 administration of the WESTEST 2 will include a writing component for all students in grades 3-11. West Virginia students will submit an online writing sample which will be scored on a 6-point scale in five traits – organization, development, sentence structure, word choice/grammar usage and mechanics. The online writing scores will be included in the overall score of the reading/language arts portion of WESTEST 2.

This Parent Guide provides information about the **2009 WESTEST 2 Online Writing**.



Dr. Steven L. Paine  
State Superintendent of Schools



## WESTEST 2 ONLINE WRITING INFORMATION

The **WESTEST 2 Online Writing** will be administered in the spring of 2009. On a secure Web site, students will use word processing to enter their responses to assigned passages and accompanying prompts based on the following genres of writing:

**Descriptive** – This genre has many details and images describing sight, sound, smell, taste and touch.

**Narrative** – This genre focuses on an event or a situation of interest to the writer and includes a clear sequence of events.

**Informative** – This genre clearly conveys facts, feelings and ideas; it is logical, clear, concise and supported by relevant details.

**Persuasive** – This genre reflects a clear point of view that is well supported with examples and reasoning that can bring about a change in a reader's perspective.

Components of the administration and scoring of Online Writing include the following:

- Students will be encouraged to use the five-step writing process to complete their responses for scoring.
- Students will be given sufficient time to complete the assignment within the confines of the testing day.
- Students may handwrite a rough draft, but the final response must be submitted electronically.
- Student responses will be computer scored, using the West Virginia Writing Rubric based on the analytic traits of organization, development, sentence structure, word choice/grammar usage and mechanics.

## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

**When will the assessment be administered and what grades will be assessed?**

Students in grades 3-11 will be assessed. Students in grades 6-8 will test between March 2 and March 20; students in grades 9-11 will test between March 23 and April 10; students in grades 3-5 will test between April 13 and May 1.

**Are students required to participate in the WESTEST 2 Online Writing?**

Yes. The results from the 2009 WESTEST 2 Online Writing will be included in the reading/language arts score and will count for adequate yearly progress (AYP). The Online Writing component of WESTEST 2 is composed of five analytic writing traits—organization, development, sentence structure, word choice/grammar usage and mechanics. Each trait is worth 6 points, making this portion of the reading language arts section worth 30 points. It is imperative that your child participate in the Online Writing session to have the opportunity to receive the highest possible reading/language arts score.

**Will students receive a separate writing score?**

No. The writing score will be reflected in the WESTEST 2 student report.

**Where can I get more information?**

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