

Writing Assessment for Kentucky High School Seniors



A Student Reference

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Writing Assessment for Kentucky High School Seniors

Writing for Assessment in the Senior Year

- Students in the 12th grade (accountability year) are *required* to produce a writing portfolio as well as write in an on-demand situation.
- Students must complete the portfolio before the first day of the school's testing window and write the on-demand document during the testing window.
- *Senior Assessment in writing does NOT include Open Response type writing.*

Writing Portfolio

- Requires students to write for a variety of audiences for a variety of purposes in a variety of forms over a five-year period (8th_12th grades).
- Includes five pieces from four categories of writing: reflective, personal, literary, and transactive.
- Includes a Table of Contents, a Student Signature Sheet, and the five pieces of writing with at least two pieces in the portfolio generated in classrooms other than, English/Language Arts.
- Counts 11 % of the school's writing index.
- Is scored locally by the school's scoring team members who use the Holistic Scoring Guide.

On-Demand Writing

- Requires students to perform a single writing task in a limited time frame during the CATS testing window in the senior year.
- Counts 3% of the school's writing index.
- Is scored by the testing company's scorers who use the Holistic Scoring Guide.

SCORING

In Kentucky Writing Assessment, student writing is assessed through the Holistic Scoring Process, assigning a single performance level rating based on an overall view of the entire portfolio or on-demand writing. Holistic Scoring involves the following criteria:

- Purpose/Audience
- Idea Development/Support
- Organization
- Sentences
- Language
- Correctness

Portfolios and On-Demand Writing pieces are assigned one of these Performance Levels:

NOVICE

APPRENTICE

PROFICIENT

DISTINGUISHED

Examine the copy of the Holistic Scoring Guide on the following page, noting the descriptors under each performance level.

The following chart indicates the similarities and differences of On-Demand and Portfolio writing:

ON-DEMAND WRITING

PORTFOLIO WRITING

completed in one session (usually 90 min.)

developed over a period of 4-5 years and compiled for the portfolio during the senior year

students choose one of two tasks which specify an audience, purpose, and form

students are allowed to choose their own audiences, purposes, and forms

students may not use any response partners

students are encouraged to use response partners

students may use dictionaries and thesauruses

students may use dictionaries and thesauruses

students are encouraged to take a process approach to the writing

students use the process approach to writing

In both, students' writing is **assessed** using the same criteria: awareness of audience and purpose, idea development and supporting detail, organization, sentence structure, language, and correctness.

In order to reach the proficient level in both, students must produce writing that is **focused, well-developed, and organized**. The writing must also demonstrate control over standard usage, punctuation, capitalization, and spelling.

Ethical Issues of Portfolio Writing

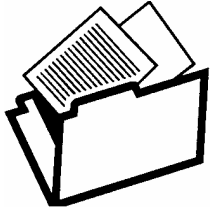
- Students must have **total** ownership of portfolio writing. Teachers, peers, and parents may serve as mentors, responders, encouragers, and critics, but the students must compile their own work. This includes the handwriting, typing, or word processing.
- No one other than the student may make corrections or revisions in portfolio documents.
- The student is required to sign a statement that all work in the portfolio is his/her original work. Plagiarism is not acceptable.
- Please reference the school's policy on plagiarism for working definitions and consequence actions taken by the school administration.

Ethical Issues of On-Demand Writing

Students may not receive any help other than a dictionary or thesaurus when writing the on-demand assessment.

Common Definitions

Authentic Writing	Classification of writing which asks students to synthesize, analyze, or evaluate what they have learned in order to communicate with a wider audience, usually outside of the classroom.
Assessment Portfolio	A purposeful selection of five pieces of writing submitted by the student.
Holistic Scoring Guide	The rubric used for scoring a portfolio and on-demand writing (attached copy will define the performance levels and the scoring criteria).
Holistic Scoring	The assigning of a single performance level rating based on an overall view of writing.
Reflective Writing	Writing that includes the writer's analysis of his/her writing skills, abilities, approaches, and products.
Personal Writing	Writing that focuses on the life experiences of the writer. Personal forms in the portfolio may include the following: Personal narrative (focusing on the significance of a single event), memoir (focusing on the significant relationship of the writer with a person, place of thing), or a personal essay (writing that focuses on a central idea supported by a variety of incidents in the writer's life).
Literary Writing	Writing that takes the form of a poem, short story, script/play.
Transactive Writing	Writing that takes the form of real-world writing (letters, editorials, speeches, etc.).
On-Demand Writing	Writing that requires a student to independently apply writing strategies and skills in a limited time when given a prompt with a specific purpose, audience, and form.



Portfolio Writing

The Kentucky Writing Portfolio, part of CATS assessment for high school seniors, is a collection of student work that has been developed over time. Writing is included from four categories (Reflective, Personal/Expressive, Literary, and Transactive) and from different content areas.

Complete/Incomplete Portfolios

In order to be scored, a student's Writing Portfolio must be "complete." A complete Portfolio must contain:

- A Table of Contents which indicates the following:
- Required writing in each category (Reflective, Personal, Literary, and Transactive)
- Required number of pieces in each category (For 12th grade, this means 5 total pieces, 1 in each category plus 1 extra in Personal, Literary, or Transactive.)
- Required number of Content Pieces identified by content area class (at least 2 of the pieces must come from a content area class other than English/language arts)
- A Signed Student Signature Sheet

A Portfolio may be scored "Incomplete" if any of the above items are not met OR if any pieces

- are proven to be plagiarized.
- are different from those listed in the Table of Contents.
- are written in a language other than English.
- demonstrate only computational skills.
- consist of only diagrams or drawings.
- represent a group entry.

Writing Portfolio Assessment
 CONTENTS OF THE GRADE 12 PORTFOLIO

The Grade 12 Writing Portfolio must include a total of five (5) writing entries. Any of the entries may come from study/content areas other than English/language arts, but a minimum of two (2) pieces of writing must come from another study/content area. The Grade 12 Writing Portfolio must contain the following:

Table of Contents: Include the title and category of each portfolio entry, the study/content area for which the piece was written, and the page number(s) in the portfolio.

Student Signature Sheet: Includes the signature of the student stating the student's ownership over the contents of the portfolio (required), acknowledgment of any Individual Education Plan (IEP)/504 Plan adaptations (with teacher signature) and a student signature giving permission to use the portfolio for training purposes. (optional)

Reflective Writing (Student must include one piece only):

Letter to the Reviewer - discussing the student's growth as a writer and reflecting on pieces in the portfolio. Reflections on pieces might include such information as influences on the student's writing, references to a particular strategies/skills used in writing, decisions made during the development of the pieces, etc.

Personal Expressive Writing(s):

Student must include 1 or 2 pieces from this category in the form of

- *Personal Narrative* - focusing on one event in the life of the writer
- *Memoir* - focusing on the relationship of the writer with a particular person, place, animal, or thing, supported by memories of specific experiences
- *Personal Essay* - focusing on a central idea, supported by a variety of incidents in the writer's life

Literary Writing(s): Student must include 1 or 2 pieces from this category in the form of *Short Story, Poem, Script, or Play*

Transactional Writing(s): Student must include 1 or 2 pieces from this category. Transactional writing is produced "to get something done" in the real world (e.g., to provide ideas and information for a variety of purposes, to persuade readers to support a point of view). Transactional pieces are written for a variety of authentic audiences and purposes in real-world forms (such as *speeches, feature articles, letters, editorials, proposals, reviews, etc.*)

Possible configurations for a complete grade 12 writing portfolio:

Categories of Writing	Portfolio Design A	Portfolio Design B	Portfolio Design C
Reflective Writing	1	1	1
Personal/Expressive Writing	1	1	2
Literary Writing	1	2	1
Transactional Writing	2	1	1
Total Pieces for Portfolio	5	5	5

REMINDER: A minimum of two (2) pieces of writing must come from a study/content area other than English.

From Kentucky Writing Development Teacher's Handbook, Section 2, Chapter J 1. Kentucky Department of Education, 200 J Update.

Kentucky Writing Portfolio
Table of Contents
Grade 12

Student Signature Sheet Included and Signed

Y N (Circle One)

Fill In Number Selected	Category/Descriptor	Content area At least <u>two</u> pieces must come from a content area other than English/language arts	Page
1	Reflective Writing		
	Title: Letter to the Reviewer	English/language arts	
	Personal Expression Writing (Include 1 or 2) <i>Personal Narrative, Memoir, Personal Essay</i>		
	Title:		
	Title:		
	Literary Writing (Include 1 or 2) <i>Story, Poem, Script, Play</i>		
	Title:		
	Title:		
	Transactive Writing (Include 1 or 2) <i>Various Real-World Forms</i>		
	Title:		
	Title:		
	Total (must equal 5)		