

ND A+ Summative Writing Assessment

As ND schools prepare to administer the ND A+ Writing Assessment, the following guidance outlines the considerations and expectations for the writing portion of the ND A+ system of assessments.

Scoring Overview

Responses to the writing prompts contribute up to 10 points toward the student's total ELA score. Students receive two unrelated prompts and write a short essay response to each prompt separately. Each short essay response is scored using a 10-point rubric. An average of the scores earned on each short essay response is taken to provide the student's writing score.

- Example: A student scores 9 on their first short-essay response and 7 on their second short essay response. The average of the two scores ($9+7= 16$, $16/2= 8$) provides the total points out of 10 applied to the student's final ELA score. This student would receive 8 out of 10 possible points for their writing.

There are no requirements on the number of paragraphs a student should write. Whether a student can succinctly answer a question in fewer paragraphs, or whether it takes a student several paragraphs to answer, there is no impact to their score. A student's score is determined by the substantive nature of their response.

Types of Writing Prompts

Each student will receive two unrelated writing prompts from three potential writing categories: informative, opinion/argumentative and narrative. The prompt text will use wording such as "explain or describe", "write an argumentative essay", or "write a continuation of the story" to indicate the type of writing prompt.

An **opinion/argumentative** writing prompt may include the following guidance:

- Introduce the topic of your essay, and state your opinion/point of view about ...
- Include reasons that support your opinion or argument, and thoroughly explain those reasons.
- Support your opinion/argument by including evidence for your reasons.
- Organize your essay, and use words, phrases, and/or clauses that help your essay flow from one idea to the next.
- End your essay in a way that makes sense.
- Include correct punctuation, capitalization, sentence formation, spelling, grammar, and usage.

An **informative** writing prompt may include the following guidance:

- Introduce the topic of your essay.
- Connect and organize related ideas and information into paragraphs.
- Use facts, definitions, details, and/or quotations from the passage to support your ideas.
- Provide detailed explanations that support your ideas.
- Use words, phrases, and/or clauses that help your essay flow from one idea to the next.
- Use precise language and vocabulary to explain your ideas.
- End your essay in a way that makes sense.
- Include correct punctuation, capitalization, sentence formation, spelling, grammar, and usage.

A **narrative** writing prompt may include the following guidance:

- Be sure your story is complete.

- Maintain the narrator already established in the story.
- Present a sequence of events that unfolds with natural transitions.
- Use a variety of narrative techniques to develop experiences, events, and characters.
- Use precise words and phrases, relevant descriptive details, and sensory language.
- Create a logical ending.
- Include correct punctuation, capitalization, sentence formation, spelling, grammar, and usage.