

2009 Writing Performance Level Descriptors (PLD)

Writing, Grade 3

PL Label	PL Text
Inconclusive	The Inconclusive student's responses are not evident or are inconsistent when presented with a variety of writing materials.
Exploring	The Exploring writer orients symbols and pictures in correct format (right side up). The student is beginning to identify the beginning letter of a word by sound to write the complete word. The Exploring writer makes marks resembling letters and makes marks on a page to write first name. The student copies simple words.
Emerging	The Emerging writer is beginning to use intentional movement to produce visual and graphic representations of writing. The student writes the conclusion/end of a story and identifies key points to include in a given topic by organizing or using pictures/symbols. The Emerging writer orients words in correct format (right side up, left to right). The student writes the first letter of a word, any letter of first name, and letters of the alphabet. The Emerging writer identifies the beginning letter of a word by sound to write the complete word and is beginning to spell basic words. The student is beginning to construct rudimentary sentences by using upper and lower case letters and proper spacing between letters and words.
Developing	The Developing writer uses intentional movement to produce visual and graphic representations of writing. The student writes first name correctly. The Developing writer organizes writing and chooses sentences for the introduction or conclusion of a paragraph. The student uses upper and lower case letters appropriately and understands that sentences begin with a capital letter. The Developing writer understands basic sentence structure and identifies nouns and verbs in sentences. The student constructs rudimentary sentences to describe a picture.
Novice	The Novice writer writes simple complete sentences with subject and action in response to a prompt. The student understands standard English usage rules (numbers written out, text organization) in writing tasks. The Novice writer maintains appropriate tense and subject/verb agreement throughout written text. The student identifies and uses parts of speech such as nouns, verbs/linking verbs, modifiers, and pronouns. The Novice writer proofreads to correct errors in grammar, end punctuation, and spelling.

Writing, Grade 4

PL Label	PL Text
Inconclusive	The Inconclusive student's responses are not evident or are inconsistent when presented with a variety of writing materials.
Exploring	The Exploring writer orients symbols and pictures in correct format (right side up). The student is beginning to identify the beginning letter of a word by sound to write the complete word. The Exploring writer makes marks resembling letters and makes marks on a page to write first name. The student copies simple words.
Emerging	The Emerging writer is beginning to use intentional movement to produce visual and graphic representations of writing. The student writes the conclusion/end of a story and identifies key points to include in a given topic by organizing or using pictures/symbols. The Emerging writer orients words in correct format (right side up, left to right). The student writes the first letter of a word, any letter of first name, and letters of the alphabet. The Emerging writer identifies the beginning letter of a word by sound to write the complete word and is beginning to spell basic words. The student is beginning to construct rudimentary sentences by using upper and lower case letters and proper spacing between letters and words.
Developing	The Developing writer uses intentional movement to produce visual and graphic representations of writing. The student writes first name correctly. The Developing writer organizes writing and chooses sentences for the introduction or conclusion of a paragraph. The student uses upper and lower case

	letters appropriately and understands that sentences begin with a capital letter. The Developing writer understands basic sentence structure and identifies nouns and verbs in sentences. The student constructs rudimentary sentences to describe a picture.
Novice	The Novice writer writes simple complete sentences with subject and action in response to a prompt. The student understands standard English usage rules (numbers written out, text organization) in writing tasks. The Novice writer maintains appropriate tense and subject/verb agreement throughout written text. The student identifies and uses parts of speech such as nouns, verbs/linking verbs, modifiers, and pronouns. The Novice writer proofreads to correct errors in grammar, end punctuation, and spelling.

Writing, Grade 5

PL Label	PL Text
Inconclusive	The Inconclusive student's responses are not evident or are inconsistent when presented with a variety of writing materials.
Exploring	The Exploring writer orients graphics (letters/pictures/symbols/words) in readable format (right side up, left to right). The student is beginning to identify the beginning letter of a word by sound to write the complete word. The Exploring writer is beginning to write letters and writes any letter of name. The student is beginning to spell by writing the first letter of a word. The Exploring writer copies a word.
Emerging	The Emerging writer uses intentional movement to produce visual and graphic representations of writing. The student sequences stories, writes the best conclusion to end a paragraph, and identifies key points to include in a given topic by organizing or using words/pictures/symbols. The Emerging writer is beginning to spell simple words. The student writes first name. The Emerging writer demonstrates understanding of rudimentary sentence structure by writing in word strings to describe a picture, using upper case letters at the beginning of sentences, and using the correct punctuation for a sentence.
Developing	The Developing writer organizes writing and uses appropriate sentences for the introduction or conclusion of a paragraph. The student understands sentence-ending punctuation and proofreads to correct errors in basic spelling and punctuation. The Developing writer understands basic sentence structure and identifies nouns and verbs in sentences. The student constructs rudimentary sentences to describe a picture.
Novice	The Novice writer writes simple complete sentences with subject and action in response to a prompt. The student understands standard English usage rules (numbers written out, text organization) in writing tasks. The Novice writer maintains appropriate tense and subject/verb agreement throughout written text. The student identifies and uses parts of speech such as nouns, verbs/linking verbs, modifiers, and pronouns. The Novice writer proofreads to correct errors in grammar, end punctuation, and spelling.

Writing, Grade 6

PL Label	PL Text
Inconclusive	The Inconclusive student's responses are not evident or are inconsistent when presented with a variety of writing materials.
Exploring	The Exploring writer orients graphics (letters/pictures/symbols/words) in readable format (right side up, left to right). The student identifies the beginning letter of a word by sound to write the complete word. The Exploring writer is beginning to write letters and writes any letter of name. The student is beginning to spell by writing the first letter of a word. The Exploring writer copies a word. The student is beginning to use punctuation in writing.
Emerging	The Emerging writer uses intentional movement to produce visual and graphic representations of writing. The student writes first name correctly. The Emerging writer sequences stories, writes the best conclusion to end a paragraph, and identifies key points to include in a given topic by organizing or using words/pictures/symbols. The student demonstrates understanding of rudimentary sentence structure by

	writing in word strings to describe a picture. The Emerging writer is beginning to use upper case letters at the beginning of sentences and choosing the correct punctuation for a sentence.
Developing	The Developing writer organizes writing and uses appropriate sentences for the introduction or conclusion of a paragraph. The student recognizes, uses, and proofreads for correct spelling of words, capitalization, and punctuation. The Developing writer understands basic sentence structure and identifies nouns and verbs in sentences. The student constructs rudimentary sentences to describe a picture using correct capitalization and punctuation.
Novice	The Novice writer writes complex sentences with subject and action in response to a prompt. The student understands standard English usage rules (numbers written out, text organization) in writing tasks. The Novice writer maintains appropriate tense and subject/verb agreement throughout written text. The student identifies and uses parts of speech such as nouns, verbs/linking verbs, modifiers, and pronouns. The Novice writer proofreads to correct errors in grammar, end punctuation, and spelling.

Writing, Grade 7

PL Label	PL Text
Inconclusive	The Inconclusive student's responses are not evident or are inconsistent when presented with a variety of writing materials.
Exploring	The Exploring writer orients graphics (letters/pictures/symbols/words) in readable format (right side up, left to right). The student identifies the beginning letter of a word by sound to write the complete word. The Exploring writer is beginning to write letters and writes any letter of name. The student is beginning to spell by writing the first letter of a word. The Exploring writer copies a word. The student is beginning to use punctuation in writing.
Emerging	The Emerging writer uses intentional movement to produce visual and graphic representations of writing. The student writes first name correctly. The Emerging writer sequences stories, writes the best conclusion to end a paragraph, and chooses key points to include in a given topic by organizing or using words/pictures/symbols. The student demonstrates understanding of rudimentary sentence structure by writing in word strings to describe a picture. The Emerging writer is beginning to use upper case letters at the beginning of sentences and using the correct punctuation for a sentence.
Developing	The Developing writer organizes writing and arranges sentences in order of introduction, body, and conclusion. The student recognizes, uses, and proofreads for correct spelling of words, capitalization, and punctuation. The Developing writer understands basic sentence structure and identifies nouns and verbs in sentences. The student constructs simple sentences to describe a picture using correct capitalization and punctuation.
Novice	The Novice writer writes complex sentences with subject and action in response to a prompt. The student understands standard English usage rules (numbers written out, text organization) in writing tasks. The Novice writer maintains appropriate tense and subject/verb agreement throughout written text. The student identifies and uses parts of speech such as nouns, verbs/linking verbs, modifiers, and pronouns. The Novice writer proofreads to correct errors in grammar, end punctuation, and spelling.

Writing, Grade 8

PL Label	PL Text
Inconclusive	The Inconclusive student's responses are not evident or are inconsistent when presented with a variety of writing materials.
Exploring	The Exploring writer orients graphics (letters/pictures/symbols/words) in readable format (right side up, left to right) and arranges pictures/symbols to tell a story. The student writes any letter of name and letters of the alphabet when requested. The Exploring writer identifies the beginning letter of a word by sound to write the complete word. The student spells by writing the first letter of a word. The Exploring writer copies a word. The student is beginning to use punctuation in writing. The Exploring writer is beginning to use pictures to choose key points for a given topic.

Emerging	The Emerging writer uses intentional movement to produce visual and graphic representations of writing. The student writes first name. The Emerging writer sequences stories, uses the best conclusion to end a paragraph, and identifies key sentences to include in a given topic by organizing or choosing words/pictures/symbols. The student writes a word in response to a prompt. The Emerging writer demonstrates understanding of capitalization and punctuation in sentences, and labels nouns and verbs. The student is beginning to use writing to communicate meaning.
Developing	The Developing writer organizes writing and arranges sentences in order of introduction, body, and conclusion. The student uses correct spelling, punctuation, and capitalization to complete a writing task. The Developing writer is beginning to understand capitalization in titles and other standard English usage rules (numbers written out, text organization). The student understands basic sentence structure and identifies parts of speech such as proper nouns, nouns, and verbs in sentences. The Developing writer constructs simple sentences in response to a prompt.
Novice	The Novice writer writes complex sentences with subject and action in response to a prompt. The student uses standard English usage rules (numbers written out, text organization, abbreviations, etc.) in writing tasks. The Novice writer maintains appropriate tense and subject/verb agreement throughout written text. The student identifies and uses parts of speech such as nouns, verbs/linking verbs, modifiers, and pronouns. The student proofreads to correct errors in grammar, end punctuation, and spelling. The student selects a source of information to include in a bibliography.

Writing, Grade 9

PL Label	PL Text
Inconclusive	The Inconclusive student's responses are not evident or are inconsistent when presented with a variety of writing materials.
Exploring	The Exploring writer orients graphics (letters/pictures/symbols/words) in readable format (right side up, left to right) and arranges pictures/symbols to tell a story. The student writes any letter of name and letters of the alphabet when requested. The Exploring writer identifies the beginning letter of a word by sound to write the complete word. The student spells by writing the first letter of a word. The Exploring writer copies a word. The student uses punctuation in writing. The Exploring writer uses pictures to choose key points for a given topic.
Emerging	The Emerging writer uses intentional movement to produce visual and graphic representations of writing. The student writes first name. The Emerging writer sequences stories and chooses the best conclusion to end a paragraph by arranging sentences. The student writes a word in response to a prompt. The Emerging writer demonstrates understanding of capitalization and punctuation in sentences, and labels nouns and verbs. The student uses writing to communicate meaning.
Developing	The Developing writer organizes writing and arranges paragraph sentences in order of introduction, body, and conclusion. The student writes first and last name. The Developing writer chooses key points/sentences to include in writing. The student understands standard English usage rules (introduction/ conclusion, numbers written out, text organization). The Developing writer uses correct spelling, punctuation, and capitalization and proofreads to complete a writing task. The student understands basic sentence structure and identifies parts of speech such as proper nouns, nouns, pronouns, adjectives, and verbs in sentences. The Developing writer constructs simple sentences in response to a prompt.
Novice	The Novice writer writes complex sentences with subject and action in response to a prompt. The student understands standard English usage rules (numbers written out, text organization, abbreviations, etc.) in writing tasks. The Novice writer maintains appropriate tense and subject/verb agreement throughout written text. The student identifies and uses parts of speech such as nouns, verbs/linking verbs, adjectives, adverbs, and pronouns. The student proofreads to correct errors in grammar, end punctuation, and spelling. The student selects a source of information to include in a bibliography.

Writing, Grade 10

PL Label	PL Text
Inconclusive	The Inconclusive student's responses are not evident or are inconsistent when presented with a variety of writing materials.
Exploring	The Exploring writer orients graphics (letters/pictures/symbols/words) in readable format (right side up, left to right) and arranges pictures/symbols to tell a story. The student writes first name and letters of the alphabet. The Exploring writer identifies the beginning letter of a word by sound to write the complete word. The student spells by writing the first letter of a word. The Exploring writer copies a word. The student uses punctuation in writing. The Exploring writer uses pictures to choose key points for a given topic.
Emerging	The Emerging writer uses intentional movement to produce visual and graphic representations of writing. The student writes first name and last name. The Emerging writer sequences stories and chooses the best conclusion to end a paragraph by arranging sentences. The student writes a word in response to a prompt. The Emerging writer demonstrates understanding of capitalization and punctuation in sentences and labels nouns and verbs. The student uses writing to communicate meaning.
Developing	The Developing writer organizes writing and arranges paragraph sentences in order of introduction, body, and conclusion. The student chooses key points/sentences to include in writing. The Developing writer understands standard English usage rules (introduction/ conclusion, numbers written out, text organization). The student uses correct spelling, punctuation, and capitalization and proofreads to complete a writing task. The Developing writer understands basic sentence structure and identifies parts of speech such as proper nouns, nouns, pronouns, adjectives, and verbs in sentences. The student constructs simple sentences in response to a prompt.
Novice	The Novice writer writes complex sentences with subject and action in response to a prompt. The student understands standard English usage rules (numbers written out, text organization, abbreviations, etc.) in writing tasks. The Novice writer maintains appropriate tense and subject/verb agreement throughout written text. The student identifies and uses parts of speech such as nouns, verbs/linking verbs, adjectives, adverbs, modifiers, and pronouns. The Novice writer proofreads to correct errors in grammar, end punctuation, and spelling. The student selects a source of information to include in a bibliography.