

Writing Continuum, From Exploration to Independent

Stages including Reasoning and Idea Development					
Stage	Words & Concepts of Print	Sentences	Content	Conventions	Audience & Purpose
Sophisticated ↑ Novice		At each stage, continue to add more variety of sentence length and structure	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Focus on a topic •Expand or explain ideas in more detail •Experiment with word choice and voice •Strengthen organization 	Keep working on punctuation & expand repertoire	Write with the audience and purpose in mind.
6) Beginning	Grade-appropriate Spelling is mostly correct	Several simple (subject-verb) sentences	Adds Additional Details or reasons; Simple Organization	Some simple conventions , including capital letters and end punctuation	Writes so others can read.
5) Developing	Readable Text with Words that have meaning, but are still spelled phonetically; Spaces and Consistent directionality	Limited number of sentences	Begins to develop a topic and connects Details about the topic	Attempts punctuation at times, but may be wrong	Considers audience ; writes so that others can read the text

Exploratory Stages: <i>Student is learning to use paper & pencil, with beginnings of ideas</i>				
Stage	Drawing	Letters	Words & Concepts of Print	Sentences
4) Emergent	Picture is still the main focus, and seems to tell a story	Student makes letter/sound connections	Attempts to produce words with semi-phonetic (initial sound) or phonetic (CVC) spellings; generally uses correct directionality	Attempts sentences , but text is sometimes difficult to read
3) Pre-Conventional	Drawing has more detail	Forms some random letters		
2) Early Pre-Conventional	Drawing has recognizable objects ; student can usually describe the story behind the drawing			
1) Exploration	Scribbles or marks on paper without obvious meaning			