

Beginning Writer's Continuum (BWC)

6 + 1 Trait Assessment for Beginning Writers

EXPERIMENTING 1	EMERGING 2	DEVELOPING 3	CAPABLE 4	EXPERIENCED 5
IDEAS	IDEAS	IDEAS	IDEAS	IDEAS
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Uses scribbles for writing <input type="checkbox"/> Dictates labels or a story <input type="checkbox"/> Shapes that look like letters <input type="checkbox"/> Line forms that imitate text <input type="checkbox"/> Writes letters randomly 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Some recognizable words present <input type="checkbox"/> Labels pictures <input type="checkbox"/> Uses drawings that show detail <input type="checkbox"/> Pictures are supported by some words 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Attempts a story or to make a point <input type="checkbox"/> Illustration supports the writing <input type="checkbox"/> Meaning of the general idea recognizable/understandable <input type="checkbox"/> Some ideas clear but some 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Writing tells a story or makes a point <input type="checkbox"/> Illustration (if present) enhances the writing <input type="checkbox"/> Idea is generally on topic <input type="checkbox"/> Details are present but not developed (lists) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Presents a fresh/original idea <input type="checkbox"/> Topic is narrowed and focused <input type="checkbox"/> Develops one clear, main idea <input type="checkbox"/> Uses interesting, important details for support. <input type="checkbox"/> Writer understands topic well
ORGANIZATION	ORGANIZATION	ORGANIZATION	ORGANIZATION	ORGANIZATION
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Ability to order or group not yet present <input type="checkbox"/> No sense of beginning or end <input type="checkbox"/> Connections between ideas are confusing 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> No title (if requested) <input type="checkbox"/> Experiments with beginnings <input type="checkbox"/> Begins to group like words/pictures <input type="checkbox"/> Transitions or evidence of sequencing are haphazard 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> A title is present (if requested) <input type="checkbox"/> Limited transitions present <input type="checkbox"/> Beginning but no ending except "The End" <input type="checkbox"/> Attempts at sequencing and transitions 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> An appropriate title is present (if requested) <input type="checkbox"/> Attempts transitions from sentence to sentence <input type="checkbox"/> Beginning works well and attempts an ending <input type="checkbox"/> Logical sequencing <input type="checkbox"/> Key ideas begin to surface 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> An original title is present (if requested) <input type="checkbox"/> Transitions connect main ideas <input type="checkbox"/> The opening attracts <input type="checkbox"/> An effective ending is tried <input type="checkbox"/> Easy to follow <input type="checkbox"/> Important ideas stand out
VOICE	VOICE	VOICE	VOICE	VOICE
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Communicates feeling with size, color, shape, line in drawing or letter imitation <input type="checkbox"/> Work is similar to everyone else's <input type="checkbox"/> Unclear response to task <input type="checkbox"/> Awareness of audience not present 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Hints of voice present in words and phrases <input type="checkbox"/> Looks different from most others <input type="checkbox"/> Energy/mood is present <input type="checkbox"/> Treatment of topic predictable <input type="checkbox"/> Audience is fuzzy—could be anybody, anywhere 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Expresses some predictable feelings <input type="checkbox"/> Moments of individual sparkle, but then hides <input type="checkbox"/> Repetition of familiar ideas reduces energy <input type="checkbox"/> Awareness that the writing will be read by someone else <input type="checkbox"/> Reader has limited connection to writer 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Writing is individual and expressive <input type="checkbox"/> Individual perspective becomes evident <input type="checkbox"/> Personal treatment of a standard topic <input type="checkbox"/> Writes to convey a story or idea to the reader <input type="checkbox"/> Attempts non-standard point of view 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Uses text to elicit a variety of emotions <input type="checkbox"/> Takes some risks to say more than what is expected <input type="checkbox"/> Point of view is evident <input type="checkbox"/> Writes with a clear sense of audience <input type="checkbox"/> Cares deeply about the topic

EXPERIMENTAL 1	EMERGING 2	DEVELOPING 3	CAPABLE 4	EXPERIENCED 5
WORD CHOICE	WORD CHOICE	WORD CHOICE	WORD CHOICE	WORD CHOICE
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Writes letters in strings <input type="checkbox"/> Imitates word patterns <input type="checkbox"/> Pictures stand for words and phrases <input type="checkbox"/> Copies environmental print 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Recognizable words <input type="checkbox"/> Environmental words used correctly <input type="checkbox"/> Attempts at phrases <input type="checkbox"/> Functional language 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> General or ordinary words <input type="checkbox"/> Attempts new words but they don't always fit <input type="checkbox"/> Settles for the word or phrase that "will do" <input type="checkbox"/> Big words used only to impress reader <input type="checkbox"/> Relies on slang, clichés, or repetition 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Uses favorite words correctly <input type="checkbox"/> Experiments with new and different words with some success <input type="checkbox"/> Tries to choose words for specificity <input type="checkbox"/> Attempts to use descriptive words to create images 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Everyday words used well <input type="checkbox"/> Precise, accurate, fresh, original words <input type="checkbox"/> Creates vivid images in a natural way <input type="checkbox"/> Avoids repetition, clichés or vague language <input type="checkbox"/> Attempts at figurative language
SENTENCE FLUENCY	SENTENCE FLUENCY	SENTENCE FLUENCY	SENTENCE FLUENCY	SENTENCE FLUENCY
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Mimics letters and words across the page <input type="checkbox"/> Words stand alone <input type="checkbox"/> Patterns for sentences not in evidence <input type="checkbox"/> Sentence sense not yet present 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Strings words together into phrases <input type="checkbox"/> Attempts simple sentences <input type="checkbox"/> Short, repetitive sentence patterns <input type="checkbox"/> Dialogue present but not understandable 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Uses simple sentences <input type="checkbox"/> Sentences tend to begin the same <input type="checkbox"/> Experiments with other sentence patterns <input type="checkbox"/> Reader may have to reread to follow the meaning <input type="checkbox"/> Dialogue present but needs interpretation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Simple and compound sentences present and effective <input type="checkbox"/> Attempts complex sentences <input type="checkbox"/> Not all sentences begin the same <input type="checkbox"/> Sections of writing have rhythm and flow 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Consistently uses sentence variety <input type="checkbox"/> Sentence structure is correct and creative <input type="checkbox"/> Variety of sentence beginnings <input type="checkbox"/> Natural rhythm, cadence and flow <input type="checkbox"/> Sentences have texture which clarify the important idea
CONVENTIONS	CONVENTIONS	CONVENTIONS	CONVENTIONS	CONVENTIONS
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Writes letter strings (prephonetic: dmRxzz) <input type="checkbox"/> Attempts to create standard letters <input type="checkbox"/> Attempts spacing of words, letters, symbols or pictures <input type="checkbox"/> Attempts to write left to right <input type="checkbox"/> Attempts to write top/down <input type="checkbox"/> Punctuation, capitalization etc. not making sense, yet <input type="checkbox"/> Student interpretation needed to understand text/pictures 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Attempts semi-phonetic spelling (MTR, UM, KD, etc.) <input type="checkbox"/> Uses mixed upper and lower case letters <input type="checkbox"/> Uses spaces between letters and words <input type="checkbox"/> Consistently writes left to right <input type="checkbox"/> Consistently makes effective use of top to bottom spacing <input type="checkbox"/> Random punctuation <input type="checkbox"/> Nonstandard grammar is common 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Uses phonetic spelling (MOSTR, HUMN, KLOSD, etc.) on personal words <input type="checkbox"/> Spelling of high frequency words still spotty <input type="checkbox"/> Uses capitals at the beginning of sentences <input type="checkbox"/> Usually uses end punctuation correctly (!?) <input type="checkbox"/> Experiments with other punctuation <input type="checkbox"/> Long paper may be written as one paragraph <input type="checkbox"/> Attempts standard grammar 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Transitional spelling on less frequent words (MONSTUR, HUMUN, CLOSED, etc.) <input type="checkbox"/> Spelling of high frequency words usually correct <input type="checkbox"/> Capitals at the beginning of sentences and variable use on proper nouns <input type="checkbox"/> End punctuation is correct (!?) and other punctuation is attempted (such as commas) <input type="checkbox"/> Paragraphing variable but present <input type="checkbox"/> Noun/pronoun agreement, verb tenses, subject/verb agreement 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> High frequency words are spelled correctly and very close on other words <input type="checkbox"/> Capitals used for obvious proper nouns as well as sentence beginnings <input type="checkbox"/> Basic punctuation is used correctly and/or creatively <input type="checkbox"/> Indents consistently to show paragraphs <input type="checkbox"/> Shows control over standard grammar

EXPERIMENTAL 1	EMERGING 2	DEVELOPING 3	CAPABLE 4	EXPERIENCED 5
PRESENTATION	PRESENTATION	PRESENTATION	PRESENTATION	PRESENTATION
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Letters and words are strings with no spacing <input type="checkbox"/> There is no consistent shape to letters <input type="checkbox"/> Letters are scattered randomly on the page <input type="checkbox"/> Pictures are placed randomly on the page <input type="checkbox"/> There is no connection between words and pictures 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> An attempt is made to group letters into words <input type="checkbox"/> Many letters are consistent shape, with few that are unreadable <input type="checkbox"/> There are some examples of letters grouped to make words <input type="checkbox"/> An attempt is made to group pictures with text <input type="checkbox"/> Some words are used to enhance the meaning of pictures, e.g., captions 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Most letters and words are readable with an attempt at spacing <input type="checkbox"/> There are some discrepancies in letter shape, but they are easily identifiable <input type="checkbox"/> Letters are grouped to make distinguishable words and phrases <input type="checkbox"/> Placement of pictures reflects the meaning of the text <input type="checkbox"/> Pictures are placed with an attempt to connect them to captions or text 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Words are easily readable with a consistent attempt at words spacing <input type="checkbox"/> Handwriting begins to show style, with consistent letter shape <input type="checkbox"/> An attempt is made to group words into identifiable sentences <input type="checkbox"/> Pictures are used to clarify meaning in text <input type="checkbox"/> Most pictures are located with meaningful text or captions 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Style of handwriting is consistent and words evenly spaced <input type="checkbox"/> Letters are well-formed and easy to read <input type="checkbox"/> Words are grouped by sentence or paragraph for easy understanding <input type="checkbox"/> Pictures and maps are used effectively to enhance understanding <input type="checkbox"/> Pictures are located with text to create alignment and flow of meaning