

## APPENDIX A

### 2002 FCAT Writing: District and State Results

Description of Writing Scores	Number and Percentage of Students Receiving Each Score*					
<b>Grade 4</b>	<b>Writing to Explain</b>		<b>Writing to Tell a Story</b>			
<p>For this assessment, students are given 45 minutes to read their assigned topic, plan what to write, and then write their responses.</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>How Papers Are Scored</b></p> <p>The student responses are scored by trained readers using the holistic method to evaluate a piece of writing for its overall quality. The readers consider four elements: focus, organization, support, and convention. In this type of scoring, readers make a judgment about the entire response and do not focus on any one aspect of the writing.</p> <p>Focus refers to how clearly the paper presents and maintains a clear main idea, theme, or unifying point. Papers representing the higher end of the point scale demonstrate a consistent awareness of the topic and do not contain extraneous information.</p> <p>Organization refers to the structure or plan of development (beginning, middle, and end) and whether the points are logically related to one another. Organization also refers to (1) the use of transitional devices to relate the supporting ideas to the main idea, theme, or unifying point and (2) the evidence of a connection between sentences. Papers representing the higher end of the point scale use transitions to signal the plan or text structure and end with summary or concluding statements.</p> <p>Support refers to the quality of the details used to explain, clarify, or define. The quality of the support depends on word choice, specificity, depth, and thoroughness. Papers representing the higher end of the point scale provide examples and illustrations in which the relationship between the supporting ideas and the topic is clear.</p> <p>Conventions refers to punctuation, capitalization, spelling, and variation in sentence structure used in the paper. The conventions are basic writing skills included in Florida's Sunshine State Standards. Papers representing the higher end of the point scale follow, with few exceptions, the conventions of punctuation, capitalization, and spelling and use a variety of sentence structures to present ideas.</p>	Score	District Student Count N (%)	State Student Count N (%)	District Student Count N (%)	State Student Count N (%)	
	6.0	179 (1%)	928 (1%)	83 (1%)	633 (1%)	
	5.5	133 (1%)	901 (1%)	82 (1%)	612 (1%)	
	5.0	1,153 (8%)	6,570 (7%)	1,245 (9%)	9,296 (10%)	
	4.5	799 (6%)	5,167 (5%)	1,274 (9%)	8,643 (9%)	
	4.0	3,027 (21%)	19,431 (20%)	3,547 (25%)	24,313 (25%)	
	3.5	1,535 (11%)	11,274 (12%)	1,768 (13%)	12,476 (13%)	
	3.0	4,032 (29%)	30,274 (32%)	3,474 (25%)	25,061 (26%)	
	2.5	649 (5%)	5,603 (6%)	543 (4%)	3,994 (4%)	
	2.0	1,377 (10%)	9,899 (10%)	1,079 (8%)	6,691 (7%)	
	1.5	232 (2%)	1,357 (1%)	115 (1%)	611 (1%)	
	1.0	645 (5%)	3,261 (3%)	561 (4%)	2,406 (3%)	
	Response Not Related to the Assigned Topic:		73 (1%)	385 (<0.5%)	56 (<0.5%)	326 (<0.5%)
	Response Could Not Be Read:		257 (2%)	578 (1%)	259 (2%)	574 (1%)
	Number Tested on Each Type of Writing:		14,091	95,628	14,086	95,636
	Average Score for Each Type of Writing:		3.3	3.3	3.4	3.5
	Number Tested on Both Types of Writing:		28,177	191,264		
	Average Score for Both Types of Writing:		3.3	3.4		

\*Percentages are rounded to the nearest whole number. If the percentage is less than .5%, it is written as <0.5%.



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Description of Writing Scores	Number and Percentage of Students Receiving Each Score*				
<b>Grade 8</b>	<b>Writing to Explain</b>		<b>Writing to Convince</b>		
<p>For this assessment, students are given 45 minutes to read their assigned topic, plan what to write, and then write their responses.</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>How Papers Are Scored</b></p> <p>The student responses are scored by trained readers using the holistic method to evaluate a piece of writing for its overall quality. The readers consider four elements: focus, organization, support, and convention. In this type of scoring, readers make a judgment about the entire response and do not focus on any one aspect of the writing.</p> <p>Focus refers to how clearly the paper presents and maintains a clear main idea, theme, or unifying point. Papers representing the higher end of the point scale demonstrate a consistent awareness of the topic and do not contain extraneous information.</p> <p>Organization refers to the structure or plan of development (beginning, middle, and end) and whether the points are logically related to one another. Organization also refers to (1) the use of transitional devices to relate the supporting ideas to the main idea, theme, or unifying point and (2) the evidence of a connection between sentences. Papers representing the higher end of the point scale use transitions to signal the plan or text structure and end with summary or concluding statements.</p> <p>Support refers to the quality of the details used to explain, clarify, or define. The quality of the support depends on word choice, specificity, depth, and thoroughness. Papers representing the higher end of the point scale provide examples and illustrations in which the relationship between the supporting ideas and the topic is clear.</p> <p>Conventions refers to punctuation, capitalization, spelling, and variation in sentence structure used in the paper. The conventions are basic writing skills included in Florida's Sunshine State Standards. Papers representing the higher end of the point scale follow, with few exceptions, the conventions of punctuation, capitalization, and spelling and use a variety of sentence structures to present ideas.</p>	Score	District Student Count N (%)	State Student Count N (%)	District Student Count N (%)	State Student Count N (%)
	6.0	407 (3%)	2,722 (3%)	65 (<0.5%)	757 (1%)
	5.5	456 (3%)	2,875 (3%)	143 (1%)	1,421 (2%)
	5.0	1,288 (9%)	9,103 (10%)	1,766 (13%)	13,929 (15%)
	4.5	1,480 (11%)	10,451 (11%)	1,704 (12%)	11,278 (12%)
	4.0	4,855 (35%)	31,503 (34%)	3,896 (28%)	26,728 (29%)
	3.5	1,707 (12%)	12,573 (14%)	1,650 (12%)	10,470 (11%)
	3.0	1,919 (14%)	12,959 (14%)	2,625 (19%)	16,687 (18%)
	2.5	511 (4%)	3,345 (4%)	510 (4%)	3,140 (3%)
	2.0	661 (5%)	3,535 (4%)	892 (6%)	4,759 (5%)
	1.5	158 (1%)	817 (1%)	168 (1%)	646 (1%)
	1.0	359 (3%)	1,457 (2%)	394 (3%)	1,431 (2%)
	Response Not Related to the Assigned Topic:		32 (<0.5%)	104 (<0.5%)	45 (<0.5%)
	Response Could Not Be Read:		137 (1%)	267 (<0.5%)	163 (1%)
			District	State	District
	Number Tested on Each Type of Writing:		13,970	91,711	14,021
	Average Score for Each Type of Writing:		3.8	3.8	3.6
			District	State	State
	Number Tested on Both Types of Writing:		27,991	183,453	
	Average Score for Both Types of Writing:		3.7	3.8	

\*Percentages are rounded to the nearest whole number. If the percentage is less than .5%, it is written as <0.5%.

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Description of Writing Scores	Number and Percentage of Students Receiving Each Score*					
<b>Grade 10</b>	<b>Writing to Explain</b>		<b>Writing to Convince</b>			
<p>For this assessment, students are given 45 minutes to read their assigned topic, plan what to write, and then write their responses.</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>How Papers Are Scored</b></p> <p>The student responses are scored by trained readers using the holistic method to evaluate a piece of writing for its overall quality. The readers consider four elements: focus, organization, support, and convention. In this type of scoring, readers make a judgment about the entire response and do not focus on any one aspect of the writing.</p> <p>Focus refers to how clearly the paper presents and maintains a clear main idea, theme, or unifying point. Papers representing the higher end of the point scale demonstrate a consistent awareness of the topic and do not contain extraneous information.</p> <p>Organization refers to the structure or plan of development (beginning, middle, and end) and whether the points are logically related to one another. Organization also refers to (1) the use of transitional devices to relate the supporting ideas to the main idea, theme, or unifying point and (2) the evidence of a connection between sentences. Papers representing the higher end of the point scale use transitions to signal the plan or text structure and end with summary or concluding statements.</p> <p>Support refers to the quality of the details used to explain, clarify, or define. The quality of the support depends on word choice, specificity, depth, and thoroughness. Papers representing the higher end of the point scale provide examples and illustrations in which the relationship between the supporting ideas and the topic is clear.</p> <p>Conventions refers to punctuation, capitalization, spelling, and variation in sentence structure used in the paper. The conventions are basic writing skills included in Florida's Sunshine State Standards. Papers representing the higher end of the point scale follow, with few exceptions, the conventions of punctuation, capitalization, and spelling and use a variety of sentence structures to present ideas.</p>	Score	District Student Count N (%)	State Student Count N (%)	District Student Count N (%)	State Student Count N (%)	
	6.0	195 (2%)	1,648 (2%)	61 (1%)	305 (<0.5%)	
	5.5	272 (2%)	2,415 (3%)	92 (1%)	575 (1%)	
	5.0	1,291 (11%)	9,009 (12%)	1,495 (12%)	7,072 (9%)	
	4.5	1,624 (13%)	10,613 (14%)	1,041 (9%)	7,499 (10%)	
	4.0	5,018 (41%)	31,827 (42%)	4,617 (38%)	29,704 (39%)	
	3.5	1,254 (10%)	7,201 (9%)	1,443 (12%)	11,313 (15%)	
	3.0	1,314 (11%)	8,267 (11%)	1,734 (14%)	10,016 (13%)	
	2.5	355 (3%)	1,461 (2%)	506 (4%)	3,620 (5%)	
	2.0	412 (3%)	2,016 (3%)	757 (6%)	4,039 (5%)	
	1.5	88 (1%)	292 (<0.5%)	117 (1%)	584 (1%)	
	1.0	283 (2%)	890 (1%)	274 (2%)	1,074 (1%)	
	Response Not Related to the Assigned Topic:		20 (<0.5%)	74 (<0.5%)	16 (<0.5%)	93 (<0.5%)
	Response Could Not Be Read:		59 (<0.5%)	116 (<0.5%)	41 (<0.5%)	78 (<0.5%)
	Number Tested on Each Type of Writing:		12,185	75,829	12,194	75,972
	Average Score for Each Type of Writing:		3.9	4.0	3.7	3.7
	Number Tested on Both Types of Writing:		24,379	151,801		
	Average Score for Both Types of Writing:		3.8	3.8		

\*Percentages are rounded to the nearest whole number. If the percentage is less than .5%, it is written as <0.5%.

