

TLI's Writing Domains Scoring Rubric

Grade 5

Domain and Features (All features within a domain are of equal importance.)	4 Consistent control of almost all the domain's features	3 Reasonable control of most of the domain's features	2 Inconsistent control of several of the domain's features	1 Little or no control of most of the domain's features
CONTENT	Domain includes focusing, structuring, and elaborating to create a product intended to be read			
Features: Central idea (W.4.5.5, W.4.5.8) Elaboration (W.4.5.5, W.4.5.8) Unity (W.4.5.8) Organization (W.4.5.2, W.4.5.5, W.4.5.6, W.7.5.3, W.7.5.5, W.7.5.6)	Tightly focused central idea; Evenly developed elaboration; Little digression; Evidence of planning with introduction, sequencing of ideas, transitions, and conclusion	Clear focus; Details support the central idea but development may be uneven; Slight digression or confusion; Sense of planning with introduction, some obvious sequencing, and a sense of closure	Focus is sketchy; Few details for support; May be "listy" or repetitious; Little sense of a plan and may lack clear introduction and/or closure	Unclear focus; Little or no elaboration; No sense of unification; No sense of planning and a lack of introductory and closure elements
STYLE	Domain includes purposefully shaping and controlling language to affect the reader			
Features: Selected vocabulary (W.4.5.9, W.7.5.4) Selected information (W.4.5.9) Sentence variety (W.4.5.9, W.6.5.2, W.6.5.4) Tone (W.4.5.5, W.4.5.9) Voice (W.4.5.9)	Purposefully chosen, varied, and precise grade level vocabulary; Evidence of purposefully selected, relevant information; Well-constructed simple, compound, and complex sentences (<i>see Mechanics</i>) vary in construction and length; Appropriate attitude for audience; Writer's personality shows	Specific vocabulary chosen, but variety may not be present; Information shows evidence of purposeful selection; Simple and compound sentences may be repetitious in construction and length; Attitude is appropriate for audience; Some personality shows	Basic vocabulary used; Basic information but lacks the sense of selection; Repetition of basic sentence wording with little variety; Tone is flat with little evidence of appropriate choice; No particular voice	Restricted vocabulary evident; Information is sparse; Few simple sentences; Flat tone; No particular voice
SENTENCE FORMATION	Domain reflects competently formed, appropriately mature sentences			
Features: Completeness (W.4.5.11, W.6.5.5) Absence of fused sentences (W.4.5.11, W.6.5.5) Expansion through coordination and modifiers (W.4.5.11, W.6.5.1, W.6.5.3, W.6.5.6) Embedding through subordination and modifiers (W.4.5.11) Standard word order (W.4.5.11)	Almost all sentences complete; Almost no run-ons; Compound elements and all parts of speech used effectively; Complex sentences and subordinate phrases are common; Standard word order used--exception for effect	Most sentences complete; Few run-ons; Some compound elements and all parts of speech used correctly; Complex sentences and subordinate phrases may be present; Most sentences in standard word order	Few sentences complete; Run-ons may be common; Few efforts to combine or describe elements; Few embedded elements; May contain sentences with non-standard order	Most sentences fragments Or run-ons; Little expansion of sentences; Additional embedding limited; Many sentences in non-standard word order

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Grade 5

Domain and Features (All features within a domain are of equal importance.)	4 Consistent control of almost all the domain's features	3 Reasonable control of most of the domain's features	2 Inconsistent control of several of the domain's features	1 Little or no control of most of the domain's features
USAGE	Domain reflects acceptable and effective word-level features			
Features: Standard inflections (W.4.5.11, W.6.5.7) Agreement (W.4.5.11, W.6.5.7) Word meaning (W.4.5.11, W.6.5.9) Conventions (W.4.5.11, W.6.5.7)	All pronoun usage, verbs conjugated in past and present tenses, and parts of speech are consistently used appropriately; Subject-verb and pronoun-antecedent agreement in simple, compound, and complex sentences; Word choice is accurate; Standard English usage	Most parts of speech are used with little error; Most subjects-verbs and pronouns/referents agree; Few difficulties in word choice; Standard English is present	Obvious mistakes in usage with parts of speech; Obvious mistakes in agreement; Word choices are often inaccurate; Difficulty with standard English	Many mistakes in parts of speech use; Obvious mistakes in agreement; Word choices are often inaccurate; Difficulty with standard English
MECHANICS	Domain includes symbols and devices for producing clear meaning			
Features: Capitalization (W.4.5.11, W.6.5.10) Punctuation (W.4.5.11, W.6.5.11) Formatting (W.4.5.11) Spelling (W.4.5.11, W.6.5.8)	Demonstrates accurate use of capital letters including dialogue; Correct use of end punctuation, apostrophes (<i>building on previous grade</i>), quotation marks, commas used in dialogue (<i>building on previous grade</i>), in a series, in direct address, in compound and complex sentences; Paragraphs indented appropriately; Grade-level words spelled correctly	Most grade-level capitalization used; Most grade-level punctuation used; Formatting typically used correctly; Most grade-level words spelled correctly	Many errors in grade-level capitalization; Errors in grade-level punctuation; Formatting problems; Contains many spelling errors	Capitalization errors throughout; Punctuation errors throughout; Formatting difficulties; Many spelling errors

TLI's Writing Domains Scoring Rubric

Grade 6

Domain and Features (All features within a domain are of equal importance.)	4 Consistent control of almost all the domain's features	3 Reasonable control of most of the domain's features	2 Inconsistent control of several of the domain's features	1 Little or no control of most of the domain's features
CONTENT	Domain includes focusing, structuring, and elaborating to create a product intended to be read			
Features: Central idea (W.4.6.5, W.4.6.6, W.4.6.8) Elaboration (W.4.6.5, W.4.6.6, W.4.6.8) Unity (W.4.6.5, W.4.6.8) Organization (W.4.6.2, W.4.6.5, W.4.6.6, W.4.6.7, W.4.6.8, W.7.6.4, W.7.6.6)	Tightly focused central idea; Evenly developed elaboration; Little digression; Evidence of planning with introduction, sequencing of ideas, transitions, and conclusion	Clear focus; Details support the central idea but development may be uneven; Slight digression or confusion; Sense of planning with introduction, some obvious sequencing, and a sense of closure	Focus is sketchy; Few details for support; May be "listy" or repetitious; Little sense of a plan and may lack clear introduction and/or closure	Unclear focus; Little or no elaboration; No sense of unification; No sense of planning and a lack of introductory and closure elements
STYLE	Domain includes purposefully shaping and controlling language to affect the reader			
Features: Selected vocabulary (W.4.6.9, W.7.6.5) Selected information (W.4.6.9) Sentence variety (W.4.6.9, W.6.6.1, W.6.6.2, W.6.6.4, W.7.6.2) Tone (W.4.6.5, W.4.6.9) Voice (W.4.6.3, W.4.6.9)	Purposefully chosen, varied, and precise grade level vocabulary; Evidence of purposefully selected, relevant information; Well-constructed simple, compound, and complex sentences (see <i>Mechanics</i>) vary in construction and length; Appropriate attitude for audience; Writer's personality shows	Specific vocabulary chosen, but variety may not be present; Information shows evidence of purposeful selection; Simple and compound sentences may be repetitious in construction and length; Attitude is appropriate for audience; Some personality shows	Basic vocabulary used; Basic information but lacks the sense of selection; Repetition of basic sentence wording with little variety; Tone is flat with little evidence of appropriate choice; No particular voice	Restricted vocabulary evident; Information is sparse; Few simple sentences; Flat tone; No particular voice
SENTENCE FORMATION	Domain reflects competently formed, appropriately mature sentences			
Features: Completeness (W.4.6.11, W.6.6.5) Absence of fused sentences (W.4.6.11, W.6.6.5) Expansion through coordination and modifiers (W.4.6.11, W.6.6.3, W.6.6.6) Embedding through subordination and modifiers (W.4.6.11) Standard word order (W.4.6.11)	Almost all sentences complete; Almost no run-ons; Compound elements and all parts of speech used effectively; Complex sentences and subordinate phrases are common; Standard word order used--exception for effect	Most sentences complete; Few run-ons; Some compound elements and all parts of speech used correctly; Complex sentences and subordinate phrases may be present; Most sentences in standard word order	Few sentences complete; Run-ons may be common; Few efforts to combine or describe elements; Few embedded elements; May contain sentences with non-standard order	Most sentences fragments Or run-ons; Little expansion of sentences; Additional embedding limited; Many sentences in non-standard word order

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Grade 6

Domain and Features (All features within a domain are of equal importance.)	4 Consistent control of almost all the domain's features	3 Reasonable control of most of the domain's features	2 Inconsistent control of several of the domain's features	1 Little or no control of most of the domain's features
USAGE	Domain reflects acceptable and effective word-level features			
Features: Standard inflections (W.4.6.11, W.6.6.6, W.6.6.7) Agreement (W.4.6.11, W.6.6.7) Word meaning (W.4.6.11, W.6.6.9) Conventions (W.4.6.11, W.6.6.7)	All parts of speech are consistently used appropriately including all pronoun cases and verbs conjugated in past, present, and perfect tenses; Subject-verb and pronoun-antecedent agreement in simple, compound, and complex sentences; Word choice is accurate; Standard English usage	Most parts of speech are used with little error; Most subjects-verbs and pronouns/referents agree; Few difficulties in word choice; Standard English is present	Obvious mistakes in usage with parts of speech; Obvious mistakes in agreement; Word choices are often inaccurate; Difficulty with standard English	Many mistakes in parts of speech use; Obvious mistakes in agreement; Word choices are often inaccurate; Difficulty with standard English
MECHANICS	Domain includes symbols and devices for producing clear meaning			
Features: Capitalization (W.4.6.11, W.6.6.10) Punctuation (W.4.6.11, W.6.6.11) Formatting (W.4.6.11) Spelling (W.4.6.11, W.6.6.8)	Demonstrates accurate use of capital letters; Correct use of end punctuation, apostrophes (<i>building on a lower grade</i>), quotation marks, commas used in dialogue (<i>building on a lower grade</i>), in a series, in direct address, in compound and complex sentences; Paragraphs indented appropriately; Grade-level words spelled correctly	Most grade-level capitalization used; Most grade-level punctuation used; Formatting typically used correctly; Most grade-level words spelled correctly	Many errors in grade-level capitalization; Errors in grade-level punctuation; Formatting problems; Contains many spelling errors	Capitalization errors throughout; Punctuation errors throughout; Formatting difficulties; Many spelling errors

TLI's Writing Domains Scoring Rubric

Grade 7

Domain and Features (All features within a domain are of equal importance.)	4 Consistent control of almost all the domain's features	3 Reasonable control of most of the domain's features	2 Inconsistent control of several of the domain's features	1 Little or no control of most of the domain's features
CONTENT	Domain includes focusing, structuring, and elaborating to create a product intended to be read			
Features: Central idea (W.4.7.8) Elaboration (W.4.7.8) Unity (W.4.7.8, W.7.7.4) Organization (W.4.7.2, W.4.7.5, W.7.7.6)	Tightly focused central idea; Evenly developed elaboration; Little digression; Evidence of planning with introduction, sequencing of ideas, transitions, and conclusion	Clear focus; Details support the central idea but development may be uneven; Slight digression or confusion; Sense of planning with introduction, some obvious sequencing, and a sense of closure	Focus is sketchy; Few details for support; May be "listy" or repetitious; Little sense of a plan and may lack clear introduction and/or closure	Unclear focus; Little or no elaboration; No sense of unification; No sense of planning and a lack of introductory and closure elements
STYLE	Domain includes purposefully shaping and controlling language to affect the reader			
Features: Selected vocabulary (W.4.7.9, W.7.7.5) Selected information (W.4.7.9) Sentence variety (W.4.7.9, W.6.7.1, W.6.7.3, W.7.7.2) Tone (W.4.7.9) Voice (W.4.7.9, W.7.7.5)	Purposefully chosen, varied, and precise grade level vocabulary; Evidence of purposefully selected, relevant information; Well-constructed simple, compound, complex, and <i>compound-complex</i> sentences (<i>see Mechanics</i>) vary in construction and length; Appropriate attitude for audience; Writer's personality shows in word choice	Specific vocabulary chosen, but variety may not be present; Information shows evidence of purposeful selection; Sentence types may be somewhat repetitious in construction and length; Attitude is appropriate for audience; Some personality shows	Basic vocabulary used; Basic information but lacks the sense of selection; Repetition of basic sentence wording with little variety; Tone is flat with little evidence of appropriate choice; No particular voice	Restricted vocabulary evident; Information is sparse; Few simple sentences; Flat tone; No particular voice
SENTENCE FORMATION	Domain reflects competently formed, appropriately mature sentences			
Features: Completeness (W.4.7.11, W.6.7.4) Absence of fused sentences (W.4.7.11, W.6.7.4) Expansion through coordination and modifiers (W.4.7.11, W.6.7.1) Embedding through subordination and modifiers (W.4.7.11, W.6.7.2) Standard word order (W.4.7.11)	Almost all sentences complete; Almost no run-ons; Compound elements and all parts of speech used effectively; Complex sentences with embedded elements are common; Standard word order used--exception for effect	Most sentences complete; Few run-ons; Some compound elements and all parts of speech used correctly; Complex sentences with embedded elements may be present; Most sentences in standard word order	Few sentences complete; Run-ons may be common; Few efforts to combine or describe elements; Few embedded elements; May contain sentences with non-standard order	Most sentences fragments Or run-ons; Little expansion of sentences; Additional embedding limited; Many sentences in non-standard word order

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Grade 7

Domain and Features (All features within a domain are of equal importance.)	4 Consistent control of almost all the domain's features	3 Reasonable control of most of the domain's features	2 Inconsistent control of several of the domain's features	1 Little or no control of most of the domain's features
USAGE	Domain reflects acceptable and effective word-level features			
Features: Standard inflections (W.4.7.11, W.6.7.6) Agreement (W.4.7.11, W.6.7.6) Word meaning (W.4.7.11, W.7.7.5) Conventions (W.4.7.11, W.6.7.6)	All parts of speech are consistently used appropriately including all pronoun cases and verbs conjugated in regular and progressive forms; Subject-verb and pronoun-antecedent agreement in all sentence types; Word choice is accurate; Standard English usage	Most parts of speech are used with little error; Most subjects-verbs and pronouns/referents agree; Few difficulties in word choice; Standard English is present	Obvious mistakes in usage with parts of speech; Obvious mistakes in agreement; Word choices are often inaccurate; Difficulty with standard English	Many mistakes in parts of speech use; Obvious mistakes in agreement; Word choices are often inaccurate; Difficulty with standard English
MECHANICS	Domain includes symbols and devices for producing clear meaning			
Features: Capitalization (W.4.7.11, W.6.7.8) Punctuation (W.4.7.11, W.6.7.9, W.6.7.10, W.6.7.11, W.6.7.12) Formatting (W.4.7.11) Spelling (W.4.7.11, W.6.7.7)	Demonstrates accurate use of capital letters; Correct use of end marks, commas, apostrophes <i>(building on a lower grade)</i> , double and single quotation marks, semi-colons and colons in compound and compound-complex sentences and colons with lists; Paragraphs indented appropriately; Grade-level words spelled correctly	Most grade-level capitalization used; Most grade-level punctuation used; Formatting typically used correctly; Most grade-level words spelled correctly	Many errors in grade-level capitalization; Errors in grade-level punctuation; Formatting problems; Contains many spelling errors	Capitalization errors throughout; Punctuation errors throughout; Formatting difficulties; Many spelling errors

TLI's Writing Domains Scoring Rubric

Grade 8

Domain and Features (All features within a domain are of equal importance.)	4 Consistent control of almost all the domain's features	3 Reasonable control of most of the domain's features	2 Inconsistent control of several of the domain's features	1 Little or no control of most of the domain's features
CONTENT	Domain includes focusing, structuring, and elaborating to create a product intended to be read			
Features: Central idea (W.4.8.7) Elaboration (W.4.8.7) Unity (W.4.8.7, W.7.8.4) Organization (W.4.8.2, W.4.8.5, W.4.8.6, W.4.8.7, W.7.8.6)	Tightly focused central idea; Evenly developed elaboration; Little digression; Evidence of planning with introduction, sequencing of ideas, transitions, and conclusion	Clear focus; Details support the central idea but development may be uneven; Slight digression or confusion; Sense of planning with introduction, some obvious sequencing, and a sense of closure	Focus is sketchy; Few details for support; May be "listy" or repetitious; Little sense of a plan and may lack clear introduction and/or closure	Unclear focus; Little or no elaboration; No sense of unification; No sense of planning and a lack of introductory and closure elements
STYLE	Domain includes purposefully shaping and controlling language to affect the reader			
Features: Selected vocabulary (W.4.8.8, W.7.8.5) Selected information (W.4.8.8) Sentence variety (W.4.8.8, W.6.8.1, W.6.8.3, W.7.8.2) Tone (W.4.8.8, W.7.8.5) Voice (W.4.8.8)	Purposefully chosen, varied, and precise grade level vocabulary; Evidence of purposefully selected, relevant information; Well-constructed simple, compound, complex, and compound-complex sentences that vary in construction and length; Attitude for audience seen through word choice; Writer's personality shows in word choice	Specific vocabulary chosen, but variety may not be present; Information shows evidence of purposeful selection; Sentence types may be somewhat repetitious in construction and length; Attitude is appropriate for audience; Some personality shows	Basic vocabulary used; Basic information but lacks the sense of selection; Repetition of basic sentence wording with little variety; Tone is flat with little evidence of appropriate choice; No particular voice	Restricted vocabulary evident; Information is sparse; Few simple sentences; Flat tone; No particular voice
SENTENCE FORMATION	Domain reflects competently formed, appropriately mature sentences			
Features: Completeness (W.4.8.10, W.6.8.4) Absence of fused sentences (W.4.8.10, W.6.8.4) Expansion through coordination and modifiers (W.4.8.10, W.6.8.2, W.6.8.3, W.7.8.2) Embedding through subordination and modifiers (W.4.8.10, W.6.8.2) Standard word order (W.4.8.10)	Almost all sentences complete; Almost no run-ons; Compound elements and all parts of speech used effectively; Sentences with embedded elements such as clauses and prepositional, appositive, and verbal phrases are common; Standard word order used--exception for effect	Most sentences complete; Few run-ons; Some compound elements and all parts of speech used correctly; Sentences with embedded elements may be present; Most sentences in standard word order	Few sentences complete; Run-ons may be common; Few efforts to combine or describe elements; Few embedded elements; May contain sentences with non-standard order	Most sentences fragments Or run-ons; Little expansion of sentences; Additional embedding limited; Many sentences in non-standard word order

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Grade 8

Domain and Features (All features within a domain are of equal importance.)	4 Consistent control of almost all the domain's features	3 Reasonable control of most of the domain's features	2 Inconsistent control of several of the domain's features	1 Little or no control of most of the domain's features
USAGE				
Domain reflects acceptable and effective word-level features				
Features: Standard inflections (W.4.8.10, W.6.8.5, W.6.8.6) Agreement (W.4.8.10, W.6.8.6) Word meaning (W.4.8.10, W.7.8.5) Conventions (W.4.8.10, W.6.8.5, W.6.8.6)	All parts of speech are consistently used appropriately including all pronoun cases and verbs conjugated in regular, progressive, and emphatic forms; Subject-verb and pronoun-antecedent agreement in all sentence types; Word choice is accurate; Standard English usage	Most parts of speech are used with little error; Most subjects-verbs and pronouns/referents agree; Few difficulties in word choice; Standard English is present	Obvious mistakes in usage with parts of speech; Obvious mistakes in agreement; Word choices are often inaccurate; Difficulty with standard English	Many mistakes in parts of speech use; Obvious mistakes in agreement; Word choices are often inaccurate; Difficulty with standard English
MECHANICS				
Domain includes symbols and devices for producing clear meaning				
Features: Capitalization (W.4.8.10, W.6.8.8) Punctuation (W.4.8.10, W.6.8.9, W.6.8.10) Formatting (W.4.8.10) Spelling (W.4.8.10, W.6.8.7)	Demonstrates accurate use of capital letters; Correct use of end marks, commas, apostrophes (<i>building on a lower grade</i>), double and single quotation marks, semi-colons, colons, dashes, hyphens, and parentheses; Paragraphs indented appropriately; Grade-level words spelled correctly	Most grade-level capitalization used; Most grade-level punctuation used; Formatting typically used correctly; Most grade-level words spelled correctly	Many errors in grade-level capitalization; Errors in grade-level punctuation; Formatting problems; Contains many spelling errors	Capitalization errors throughout; Punctuation errors throughout; Formatting difficulties; Many spelling errors