



ONLINE
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Common Assessment Terms

Term	Definition	Example
Achievement test	Measures learning already accomplished in writing	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• state-mandated writing test• Advanced Placement test
Analytic evaluation	Writing assessment that is conducted by trained readers who focus on specific features of writing such as ideas, organization, word choice, sentence fluency, and presentation	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• some large-scale writing tests
Aptitude test	Measures capacity or ability to learn	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Scholastic Assessment Test (SAT)
Assessment	Gathering information to determine what learning has occurred	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• can include everything from informal comments on a draft to a score on a state writing test
Constructed response	Students create responses (write) in response to task	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• test that requires an extended piece of writing
Criterion-based assessment	Writing assessment that focuses on specific features (criteria) identified in advance (see <i>analytic evaluation</i>)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• many school districts' assessments• some large-scale tests
Formative assessment	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Occurs during writing process• Provides feedback that can be used in further writing• Does not result in grade or score• Often called <i>informal assessment</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• comments from peer response group• teacher response to journal entries
High-stakes test	A single test that controls a life-shaping event like passing to the next grade or graduating from high school	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• district-mandated test• state-mandated test

(Continues)

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Holistic evaluation	Writing assessment that is conducted by trained readers who focus on overall quality, not becoming concerned about any one aspect of the writing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • some state-mandated tests • some states use a variation called a <i>focused holistic evaluation</i> that concentrates on a few features of writing
Performance assessment	Test that requires students to perform a task rather than select answers from a ready-made list (see <i>constructed response</i>). In the case of writing, performance assessment means actually writing rather than identifying features in a prepared text	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • many large-scale writing tests
Rubric	A guide for evaluating writing that lists features to be considered along with qualitative dimensions of each so that distinctions can be made among pieces of writing (see <i>scoring guide</i>)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • many teachers • many schools
Scoring guide	A predetermined list of features and qualities of each to be used in assigning a score to a piece of writing (see <i>rubric</i>)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • many teachers • many school districts • some large-scale tests
Selected response	Students select answers from choices given	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • multiple-choice grammar test • true/false test
Summative assessment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Occurs when writing is completed • Results in final grade or score 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • letter grade given to a piece of polished writing • score on state achievement test