



Literacy Research Center and Clinic
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Informal Writing Assessment

What is the Informal Writing Assessment?

The Informal Writing Assessment provides a snapshot of a student's written language abilities by examining how they communicate ideas through writing. Every student completes this assessment as part of the Literacy Research Center and Clinic's core assessment battery.

Writing provides valuable information because it integrates many literacy skills, including language, spelling, organization, and composition.

What does it measure?

The assessment provides information about:

- Organization of ideas
- Sentence structure
- Vocabulary use
- Spelling
- Grammar and conventions
- Written expression

Why do we use it?

Writing allows tutors to see how students apply their literacy knowledge in authentic communication. The assessment highlights strengths while identifying specific skills that can be strengthened through instruction.

How do the results inform instruction?

Tutors use the results to:

- Plan individualized writing instruction.
- Support sentence and paragraph development.
- Strengthen spelling within authentic writing.
- Improve organization and revision skills.
- Monitor writing growth over time.

Why it matters

Writing develops alongside reading. As students become stronger readers, they often become stronger writers, and vice versa. The Informal Writing Assessment helps tutors support both areas together through meaningful literacy instruction.