

Alabama Direct Assessment of Writing (ADAW)

Primary Purposes:

- To assess students' writing performance in descriptive, narrative, expository, and persuasive modes of discourse, thus encouraging writing in all four modes
- To report to the public regarding students' writing performance in descriptive, narrative, expository, and persuasive modes of discourse

Content:

- Grade 5—Descriptive, narrative, and expository modes of writing
- Grade 7—Descriptive, narrative, expository, and persuasive modes of writing
- Grade 10—Narrative, expository, and persuasive modes of writing

Additional Information:

- The ADAW is administered in late February/early March.
- The assessment is timed.
- Scores are reported in the following manner:
 - Focused Holistic Score. This requires the reader to focus attention on a set of compositional characteristics (purpose, content, audience, and organization/clarity) and to assign scores based on the level of proficiency that the writer demonstrates in these areas.
 - Analytic Scores. These scores are given for writing mechanics, sentence formation, and grammar and usage.
- Performance is reported in the following achievement levels:
 - Level I: This writing shows little understanding of the writing task.
 - Level II: This writing reflects some understanding of the writing task but more author involvement than author control.
 - Level III: This writing indicates a good understanding of the writing task and is sufficiently developed with a sense of audience, purpose, and author control.
 - Level IV: This writing is thorough with a strong sense of audience and purpose and is precise, consistent, and elaborated with details that are clear and coherent.

Student Assessment Contact:

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For More Information:

- Test scores for schools, school systems, and state—Accountability Reporting: <http://www.alsde.edu/Accountability/preAccountability.asp>
- Guide for Holistic Scoring of Writing: <http://www.alsde.edu/html/sections/documents.asp?section=91&sort=7&footer=sections>

- Annotated Writing Packets:
 - 2002-2003—
<http://www.alsde.edu/html/sections/annotatedpackets.asp?section=91&value=1&footer=sections&set=3>
 - 2003-2004—
<http://www.alsde.edu/html/sections/annotatedpackets.asp?section=91&value=2&footer=sections&set=4>
 - 2004-2005—
<http://www.alsde.edu/html/sections/annotatedpackets.asp?section=91&value=3&footer=sections&set=5>
 - 2005-2006—
<http://www.alsde.edu/html/sections/annotatedpackets.asp?section=91&value=3&footer=sections&set=6>