

## Grade Seven Writing: An Item-level Analysis (Provincial Level)

British Columbia

All Schools

FSA February/2008

FSA population (N=44,115)

Content Area	Item #	Number(%) of Respondents	Number(%) of Score1 Not Yet Within Expectations	Number(%) of Score2 Meets Expectations (minimal to moderate)	Number(%) of Score3 Fully Meets Expectations	Number(%) of Score4 Exceeds Expectations
Persuasive Writing (Shorter Writing)	1	43011 (100%)	4425 (10%)	22879 (53%)	13285 (30%)	2422 (5%)
Informal Essay (Longer Writing)	2	42911 (100%)	3241 (8%)	22115 (52%)	14792 (34%)	2763 (6%)

Item #	Score Description of Item
<b>1</b> <b>Focused Writing</b>	Grade 7 Focused Writing (persuasive writing) scoring rubric (click <a href="#">here</a> )
<b>2</b> <b>Extended Writing</b>	Grade 7 Extended Writing (informal essay) scoring rubric (click <a href="#">here</a> )

### General Comments – Grade 7 Writing

#### Student Strengths:

##### *Focused (Short) Writing*

- Most students had strong organization and structure.
- Most students showed good ability to be persuasive.
- Most students provided strong opinions and were able to support them.

##### *Extended (Longer) Writing*

- Most students stayed on topic.
- Most students made good use of expressive language.
- Most students effectively sequenced their ideas and used connecting words appropriately.
- Most students wrote with an apparent sense of voice.

**Areas requiring improvement:**

The marking committee has identified the following suggestions for student improvement:

*Focused (Short) Writing*

- Students need to ensure they provide logical arguments and reasons.
- Students need to improve sentence structure and clarity of thoughts.
- Students need to work on proper paragraphing.

*Extended (Longer) Writing*

- Students should ensure that they employ proper essay organization with effective introductions and conclusions.
- Students should ensure that they providing details/viewpoints that do not sound like lists.
- Students should maintain appropriate tone/level of formality in their writing.
- Students should develop a sense of audience.
- Students should pay attention to basic writing conventions.

**Implications for instruction:**

The committee suggests that teachers provide more direct instruction on basic writing conventions, effective paragraphing, and how to write engaging introductions and conclusion that provides closure with impact. Teachers should provide instruction and practice in persuasive writing, extended writing, and impromptu writing. Teachers should provide students with student exemplars of effective writing and to better familiarize students with the scoring rubrics and performance standards.