



**MEAP Fall 2011  
Grade 7 Writing  
Peer Response to the  
Student Writing Sample  
Scoring Guide**



## PEER RESPONSE TO A STUDENT WRITING SAMPLE

**DIRECTIONS:**

In this part, you will write an answer to a question about a Student Writing Sample. The paragraphs in the Student Writing Sample are numbered to help you. Your audience will be interested adults.

You must write your response on the lines in Day , Part of your **Answer Document** with a No. 2 pencil. If you erase, be sure to erase completely. You may underline, circle, or write in this booklet to help you, but nothing marked in this test booklet will be scored. No additional paper may be used.

The Notes/Planning space may be used for planning and organizing your ideas. You may use the checklist on the next page to help you with your response.

You may **NOT** use any resource materials (such as dictionaries, grammar books, or spelling books) for this test.

Once you have reached the word **STOP** in your test booklet, do **NOT** go on to the next page. If you finish early, you may go back and check your work in Part of the test **ONLY**. Do **NOT** look at any other part of the test.

Turn the page and follow along as I read the prompt and checklist to you.

## PEER RESPONSE TO A STUDENT WRITING SAMPLE

What could the writer do to improve the sample on the next page?

Use details and examples from the Student Writing Sample to support your answer and explain why your suggestions improve the sample.

### CHECKLIST

**DIRECTIONS:** Use this checklist after you have completed your response to revise and edit your writing.

- Did I clearly answer the question?
- Did I support my answer with details and examples from the Student Writing Sample?
- Did I explain why my suggestions improve the Student Writing Sample?

## **STUDENT WRITING SAMPLE**

Sample not released.

**Michigan Educational Assessment Program  
Holistic Writing Rubric  
Peer Response to Student Writing Sample  
Grades 4 and 7**

**Prompt:** What could the writer do to improve this sample?

- Use examples and/or details from the Student Writing Sample on page # to support your answer.
- Explain why your recommendation(s) improve the writing sample.

**Rubric:**

- 4** Recommendation(s) is provided. Relevant, specific examples and/or details from the sample support the recommendation(s). A strong explanation(s) of why the recommendation(s) improves the sample is provided.
- 3** Recommendation(s) is provided. Relevant, specific examples and/or details from the sample support the recommendation(s). An explanation of why the recommendation(s) improves the sample is provided.
- 2** Recommendation(s) OR explanation(s) of why a change is needed is provided. Examples and/or details from the sample support the recommendation/explanation.
- 1** Recommendation(s) is provided OR examples and/or details from the sample are provided that clearly identify a problem or a recommendation.
- 0** Recommendation(s) is **not** provided. A score of zero will result in one of the following condition codes:
- A Off-topic/Off-task
  - B Illegible or written in a language other than English
  - C Blank
  - D Insufficient to rate

Instead of stay in a condo by the beach in Florida  
for spring break they could put stay in a condo  
in Florida by the beach for spring break. Instead  
of it was crammed full of noisy tourists they could  
put the beach was crammed full of noisy  
tourists.

**ANCHOR PAPER 1****Score Point: 0**

This response re-words the writing sample and provides no recommendations (Instead of stay in a condo by the beach in Florida for spring break they could put stay in a condo in Florida by the beach for spring break).

for when I see a question I try to answer them. They found little lizards in the garden her brother said I almost had one late<sup>n</sup> that evening she found a south rock and put it in her swimming suit. That was the best one that she ever had.

**ANCHOR PAPER 2****Score Point: 0**

This response provides details (they found little lizards; she found a south rock), but the details are not connected to a recommendation.

The author student writing sample he used an Adventure story. They took an vacation to florida in a condo by the beach and ocean. It was an spring break for them so they went somewhere. When they got there everyone putting on bathing suits while their mom and dad is unpacking for the condo. They had got an brand new sand board and went sandboarding for the first time. They went swimming and was searching all different kinds of rocks like shiney, smooth, rocky, small, big ext. they also saw little rainbows that was darting place to place.

The story is telling they were going on an vacation to Florida in a condo to the end of the Spring Break. The story seems to be an adventure story. It a family that takes a trip to Florida for an vacation.

ANCHOR PAPER 3  
Score Point: 0

This response summarizes the writing sample, but does not provide a recommendation or an explanation.

"Sunny day, perfect temperature and perfect clouds." Just the perfect day for sand boarding, and building castles, eating ham and cheese, mayonaisse sandwiches, and finally swimming and chocolate ice cream sundaes. So much to do, not enough time. Hey Sam, (that's my brother) come sand boarding with me, we'll crash the waves. "It's too hot to do anything, my mind is turning to mush and my legs are turning to jelly." Then lets go swim and look for these splashing balls I brought. "The water's too cold and it's green." My brother hates sunny days, he loves ice-cream, building snowman and making forts. One chance to do anything else. So I asked my sister, do you want to build castles. Sure I have these shells I collected. So we made a 2 story castle, crashed it then we all went swimming playing football and tips. We all played except my brother and little sister, Susan. They were pretty much the same. They kept making a hole, cuz they wanted to make a little pool. When we dried off they were still there, but the hole was about

6 feet in diameter. It was really crispy. So then we went to get ice-cream sundaes and then we headed to our hotel. It was the best day ever. But the best part was my sister had a humongous telescope that could see the Moon, Venus and half of Mars. It was the best day ever.

**ANCHOR PAPER 4****Score Point: 0**

This response is a re-write of the original writing sample. No recommendations or explanations are provided.

He needs to go back over the sample with a dictionary and reread it to make sure it makes sense.

**ANCHOR PAPER 5**

**Score Point: 1**

This response provides a recommendation (go back over the sample with a dictionary and reread it). The lack of detail limits this response to a score point 1.

I believe there are three ways that this writing sample could be improved. My first suggestion is to work on the beginning. The writer needs to put an engaging lead, and introduce theme. Putting an engaging lead draws your reader in. Having a theme helps your reader understand the message or the heart in the story. The writer also needs to work on editing. Editing helps to make the story smoother and clearer for the reader. Lastly, the writer needs to restate the theme at the end. This helps to reinforce your message, and also gives it a natural conclusion. That is why I believe that following these suggestions, the writer could improve this piece.

**ANCHOR PAPER 6****Score Point: 1**

This response provides two recommendations (put an engaging lead and introduce theme; work on editing) and an explanation (editing helps to make the story smoother and clearer). The lack of detail prevents a higher score.

The writer could use better spelling in the story also they should use more detail and explain things more in detail so it will be easier to understand. Using five senses is also a big thing that people need to use when writing a story. Need to use more of a rich vocabulary. Break up sentences so they don't run on and on.

**ANCHOR PAPER 7****Score Point: 1**

This response provides multiple recommendations (use better spelling; use more detail; explain things more) and a connected explanation (so it will be easier to understand). The lack of detail prevents a higher score.

I believe that the author of that writing was a nice, descriptive writer. It was well thought out with few and minor writing errors. I loved her smile at the end, it was very descriptive and nice, though she spelled realized wrong, and and forgot a comma or two, it was very nice. It needs little improvement, and she could have used better words, all in all it was very good, and very neat and descriptive.

**ANCHOR PAPER 8****Score Point: 1**

This response identifies two problems (she spelled realized wrong; forgot a comma or two) and includes one relevant detail (realized). The lack of a clear recommendation limits this response to a score point 1.

A writer can improve can improve  
their sample on the next page  
by not changing the subject.

Example "I've never seen a lizard like  
that before," I told him, "I wonder  
where Alice is." And the writer need  
to have about the line paragraph.

**ANCHOR PAPER 9****Score Point: 2**

This response provides a recommendation (not changing the subject) and a supporting detail ("I've never seen a lizard like that before", I told him. "I wonder where Alice is"). The lack of an explanation of why the recommendation would improve the sample prevents a higher score.

The first thing the writer could have done to make the story better is go over the spelling for example the writer spelled realized "relized" instead of the original spelling. The writer could use better punctuation, when the writer said "Sandboarding!" I exclaimed excitedly" they were supposed to write it like this "Sandboarding!" I exclaimed excitedly. The writer could have combined these two sentences "The water was the perfect temperature. It felt so refreshing." What the writer should have wrote is "The water was the perfect temprature, it felt so refreshing."

**ANCHOR PAPER 10****Score Point: 2**

This response provides two recommendations (go over the spelling; combine two sentences) and supporting details (spelled realized "relized"; "The water was the perfect temperature. It felt so refreshing". What the writer should have written is, "The water was the perfect temperature, it felt so refreshing"). The lack of an explanation of why the recommendations would improve the sample prevents a higher score.

The way the writer could improve the writing would be they could give more detail. They can say my brother chased the green and yellow lizard. As he was chasing the lizard he fell on his face. She could describe what everything looked like. My condo that we stayed in was big and blue and had a balcony. I would sit out on my balcony and watch the waves and the beautiful sunset go down. As I was swimming in the ocean I saw a shiny big thing in between the seaweed. I had to grab it so I went down and pulled it out and it was a big shiny, pretty rock or stone.

Right when I got the rock  
I swam up to the shore  
and there were little creatures  
on the sand. Little baby turtles,  
crabs and as I looked at  
the ocean I saw 2 dolphins  
jumping in the air. I  
could feel the air running  
through my hair and it  
gave me the chills. When  
I looked down at the  
beach the ocean and sun looked  
like a ice cream cone  
drenched with chocolate  
that I would get from the  
candy shop. That's how you  
would give more detail.

**ANCHOR PAPER 11****Score Point: 2**

This long response provides two recommendations (give more detail; describe what everything looked like) and multiple descriptive examples (green and yellow lizard; big and blue condo; beautiful sunset). The lack of an explanation of why the recommendation would improve the sample prevents a higher score.

The writer could, use his brother and sister's name in the second paragraph to make his writing better. I say this because, he uses a pronoun before saying the noun of the pronoun.

For instance he said "My brother, my sister, and I all rushed to get our bathingsuits on." Then later in the story he says, "I wonder where Alice is". How do we know who Alice is. We could be thinking he means Alice from wonderland! So it would make more sense if, in my first example, he would say "My brother Alan (or whatever his brothers name is), my sister Alice, and I rushed to get our bathing suits on."

That is what I think the writer could do to make his writing better.

**ANCHOR PAPER 12****Score Point: 2**

This short response provides a recommendation (use his brother and sister's name in the second paragraph), supporting details (he said "my brother, my sister and I"; Then later in the story "I wonder where Alice is") and an explanation (so it would make more sense).

To help improve the writing he could give more detail like, My family had decided to stay in a condo by the beach in Florida for Spring break. Instead say, My family decided to stay in a condo in Florida by the beach for my Spring break.

That would improve the writing sample because, the people that are reading it want to picture it in their mind for say example.

Me and my dad went on a plane at 9:00pm we went right over Vegas we could see all the lights it looked like millions and millions of stars all over.

ANCHOR PAPER 13

Score Point: 3

This short response provides a recommendation (give more detail), supporting details (name the city in Florida) and an explanation (people that are reading it want to picture it in their mind).

This student writing sample was very good, but could be improved. One thing the author could improve on is word choice. For example, when he said, "I could see all kinds of different creatures," the writer might have used, "I spotted a huge assortment of creatures" instead. Another spot the writer could've improved was the place he said, "she let my brother use her sandboard," when the author might've used a more interesting word such as borrowed, or lent. If the writer had used better words, this sample would be far more engaging.

A second spot where this writing sample could be improved is spelling and grammar. An example for this is where the story said, "Then I relized," he spelled 'realized' incorrectly. The author made grammar mistakes when using dialogue. The part where the writer's younger brother was talking about lizards was incorrect because when the author spoke, "I've never seen a lizard like that before," he didn't go to the next line. This student writing sample would be much easier to read if the spelling

and grammar was corrected.

My last recommendation for the author would be to be more organized. It was organized at the beginning and end when he said, "when we arrived," and, "later that evening" but during the middle you got lost. The writer should have started a new paragraph after he wrote about diving down. It is hard to read stories where the paragraphs are bunched together. Overall, this writing sample was very well written, but with a few changes it would be much better.

ANCHOR PAPER 14

Score Point: 3

This response provides three recommendations (give more detail; improve spelling and grammar; be more organized) and supporting details (I spotted a huge assortment of creatures; spelled "realized" incorrectly; should have started a new paragraph after he wrote about driving down). The explanations (would be far more engaging; easier to read; hard to read stories where the paragraphs are bunched together) connected to the recommendations and details resulted in a score point 3.

To make this a better writing, the writer should've used better description, or used better detail what the beach looked like, what the ocean looked like, what underwater looked like, and even simple things such as the sandboard, rock and lizards. The writer should do this because it will help the reader visualize more, and that will make the reader enjoy the story more. Another thing the writer should do, is use bigger or more uncommon words. For example, when the writer says small or little, he should use the words tiny or puny. This will make the reader feel like they are reading something that a real author wrote, and it will make them enjoy the writing even more.

**ANCHOR PAPER 15****Score Point: 4**

This short response provides two recommendations (should've used better description or better detail; use bigger or more uncommon words) supported by details (what the ocean, sandboard, rock and lizards looked like; writer says small or little; should use tiny or puny) and connected explanations (help the reader visualize more; feel like they are reading something that a real author wrote). The extended explanation (will make the reader enjoy the story more) elevates this to a score point 4.

If the writer had better word choice their story would be nicer. Word choice is using different, some what creative words in a story. You also have to use everyday words well. Word choice is an important trait you should add to your writing.

If you don't believe me and need proof, then read on! In paragraph three you put down something about little lizards. Well, don't you think it would be better if you used the word mini, or tini. Small cute words like these are great! In paragraph four you used the word smile. Anybody can use this word without having to try thinking of a good or better word. So why don't you try using a word like grin. I don't know about you, but that seems better to me! And again in paragraph three you use the word little, (what is up with that word!?!). Since you used it to describe your brother, can't you use a word like younger. I would,

See now that you have your evidence, don't you think better word choice is really important?

Word choice is one of the traits that make a story. If you don't have interesting word choice the reader will stop reading. It makes your story less, umm no offense, boring. It adds that extra touch of excitement, suspense or any other type of emotion. Word choice is very important, and if you used it your story would be better.

**ANCHOR PAPER 16****Score Point: 4**

This response provides a recommendation (add better word choices), several examples of descriptive word choices (mini; tiny; grin; younger), and an explanation (If you don't have interesting word choice the reader will stop reading). The extended explanation (It makes your story less boring; it adds that extra touch of excitement, suspense or any other type of emotion) elevates this response to a score point 4.

I think that the writer for the student sample could improve her writing by correcting her miss-spelled words, using more exciting and better words to explain her sample, correcting her grammar in some places, and finally, connecting some short little sentences together to form bigger and more exciting sentences. I think that the writer should correct her miss-spelled words. Like the words "relized" and "certinly" should be spelled R-E-A-L-I-Z-E-D and C-E-R-T-A-I-N-L-Y. I think this recommendation improves this sample because it helps readers understand the passage more and not be confused by the incorrectly spelled words. I think the writer should also use better, more descriptive words. Words such as "so good" or "looking" could be replaced with words like "delightful" or "refreshing" for the simple words "so good" and the word "looking" could be replaced with words such as "staring" or "glaring". I think that this recommendation improves the sample because with better descriptive words, readers will get a more vivid image in their minds when they read this passage and they'll enjoy it more. Another thing the writer could improve is by correcting her grammar in some places. Sentences such as "Sandboarding!, I exclaimed excitedly," should be replaced as "Sandboarding!(no comma) I exclaimed excitedly." The sentence "Waves crashed onto the beautiful white sand (no comma) causing it to turn brown" should be replaced

with "Waves crashed onto the beautiful white sand, (Comma!) causing it to turn brown". I think grammer would help improve this sample because the sentences would sound really wierd without it. Readers would be confused and the passage won't sound as nice as it was meant to be. Lastly, there is little fragments of sentences in the passage that can be combined with other sentences. For example, the sentence "But I didn't really mind them" and the sentence "I just wanted to cool off" can be combined together to form the sentence "But I didn't really mind them because I just wanted to cool off." Now that's a way better sentence then the two short sentences. I think this recommendation improves this sample because the sentences would have more flow and that would make the Reader more comfortable with reading the passage. So in conclusion, I think the ways the writer can improve her sample is to fix any spelling problems, fix any gramer problems, using bigger and more descriptive words to describe sentences, and finally, combine two or more small sentences into one big, descriptive, exciting sentence.

**ANCHOR PAPER 17****Score Point: 4**

This strong response provides multiple recommendations, details, explanations and extended explanations. The recommendation (writer should correct miss-spelled words) supported by the detail (the words "relized" and "certinly" should be spelled realized and certainly) and the explanation and extended explanation (helps readers understand the passage more and not be confused) earns this response a score point 4.