

Massachusetts CURATE Rubric for Writing

	Criterion	Evidence with Simplify Writing®
Classroom Tasks and Instruction	Materials provide for structured discussions that address grade-level speaking and listening standards.	Every Simplify Writing® units includes opportunities for students to practice both speaking and listening skills in the context of informal discussions and academic discourse. Rubrics, prompts, and note-taking tools are provided for presentation activities in corresponding units.
	Most questions, tasks, and assignments are text-based, work to support knowledge building of a topic or concept and require literary or other textual analysis.	Throughout the Simplify Writing® units, students will learn research skills, incorporating evidence from outside texts to support their thinking in writing. Reference texts or paired passages related to content areas are provided in many units as a source for building background knowledge, as well as citing evidence through quotes or paraphrasing. These skills are modeled explicitly using a mentor text, with opportunities for the student to apply the skill in their own writing.
	Materials address grade-level language standards (conventions of standard English, knowledge of language, vocabulary acquisition and use) through both explicit instruction and authentic application.	<p>All language standards are spiraled throughout grade-level units, providing opportunities for authentic application in the context of writing. Language skills are modeled explicitly using mentor texts, with additional materials provided with the Grammar Library for practice and intervention.</p> <p>Students learn to produce and expand sentences, with explicit instruction on the components and various types of complete sentences, as well as mechanics (capitalization & punctuation). Grammar resources are provided for specific sentence and paragraph-level writing skills such as compound/complex sentences, subjects/predicates, parts of speech, paragraph organization, transitions, and more.</p>
	Materials include a wide range of authentic writing and explicit instruction in writing skills and strategies.	<p>Every Simplify Writing® unit covers the writing process from brainstorming to publishing, with structured mini-lessons that guide students through each step. Ample time is provided for oral discussion and brainstorming throughout each step of the process. At the end of each unit, students will have produced a published piece for a specific writing genre, including personal and creative narrative, explanatory, informational, and opinion/argumentative compositions.</p> <p>Students will produce both simple and extended writing pieces, writing to share stories and opinions, inform or explain about specific topics, or respond to a piece of literature.</p> <p>The Simplify Writing® curriculum incorporates writing across the content areas, with units at each grade level that focus on science, social studies, and literature-related topics. Authentic publishing opportunities are offered, appropriate to the audience and task (<i>e.g. flyer, brochure, letter, etc.</i>)</p>

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Accessibility for Students	Materials provide for varied means of accessing content, helping teachers meet the diverse needs of students with disabilities and those working above or below grade level.	Multiple entry points are provided for diverse needs, allowing students to engage in learning via oral discussion, collaborative learning, and written work (print/digital). Scaffolded materials such as sentence stems, paragraph frames, audio read-alouds, and graphic organizers allow students to access content at their level, while still being exposed to grade-level skills.
	Materials provide for varied means of demonstrating learning, helping teachers meet the diverse needs of students with disabilities and those working above or below grade level.	Multiple modes of assessment and communication can be used to demonstrate learning, with student choice built in (oral reports, formal essays, multimedia presentations, etc.) Digital tools may be used as needed to support diverse needs.
	Materials help teachers ensure that students at various levels of English proficiency have access to grade-level content, cognitively demanding tasks, and opportunities to develop academic language in English.	An ELL modification library is included to support teachers in modifying content for language learners and biliterate students, allowing them to use their first language as a vehicle for accessing academic English.
	Materials include questions and tasks that affirm and value diverse identities, backgrounds, and perspectives.	Students are encouraged to draw upon their own diverse backgrounds, examine others' perspectives, and make real-life connections as they write. Materials promote the validity and worth of all people, with topics that represent a range of cultures, historical figures, and languages.
Impact on Learning	Research demonstrates that the materials have a positive impact on student learning.	<p>Simplify Writing meets Tier 4 requirements by offering a well-defined logic model based on rigorous research, making it an excellent choice for schools and districts seeking to improve their students' writing skills.</p> <p>Download ESSA Evidence</p> <p>Read our Case Studies</p>

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Usability for Teachers	Lessons and tasks advance student learning with clear purpose.	Clear lesson objectives are noted in daily lesson plans, with evidence-based practices built into teacher directions. Every task within a unit connects directly to the production and process of writing for a genre, focusing on one manageable “bite-sized” skill each day.
	Materials support teachers with suggested classroom routines and structures (e.g., grouping strategies).	A framework for writing instruction is provided, with suggestions for scheduling and structuring the writing block. Routines such as working through the writing process, providing peer feedback, or spiral review are built into every Simplify Writing® unit. Opportunities for both whole-group and small-group instruction allow the teacher to group students by instructional needs.
	Pacing is reasonable and flexible; the curriculum can be implemented effectively within a typical school year.	<p>A scope and sequence is included for every grade level, breaking down essential elements of writing and grammar into manageable and structured lessons that build upon each other progressively.</p> <p>Simplify Writing® lessons are designed to fit into a manageable writing block, with each lesson covering approximately 30-45 minutes of instruction. While daily lessons are recommended, the pacing is flexible, allowing teachers to modify as needed to fit scheduling demands. Suggested alternate schedules are provided.</p>
	Materials include informal and formal assessments that help teachers measure learning and adjust instruction.	The Simplify Writing® program includes a variety of both formal and informal assessment opportunities, including pre- and post-assessments for writing, grammar, and spelling. Teachers receive guidance on utilizing quick check-ins, writing conferences, and rubrics to provide both oral and written feedback to students, with suggestions for adjusting instruction as needed based on student ability and growth.
	Materials include rubrics, exemplars, or other resources to help teachers set clear and high expectations for students.	Student-friendly rubrics are included in every Simplify Writing® unit, along with exemplars that showcase writing at each level of the rubric. Checklists and reflection forms encourage students to use the rubrics and exemplars as a tool to support self-reflection.
	Materials include guidance and resources designed specifically to build teachers’ knowledge.	Teacher models and answer keys are provided for every lesson to support the teacher’s understanding of grade-level standards. Exemplars serve as a touchstone for gauging student output. Demonstration lesson videos also serve as a model for teachers to support implementation of lessons.