

The Essential Skill of Writing

Sentence Fluency and Conventions

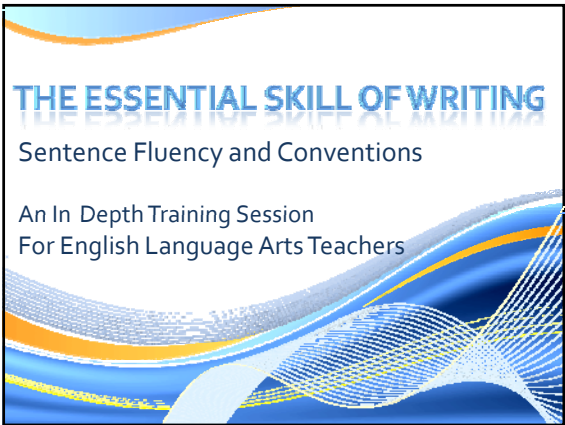
An In-Depth Training Session For English Language Arts Teachers



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THE ESSENTIAL SKILL OF WRITING
Sentence Fluency and Conventions
An In Depth Training Session
For English Language Arts Teachers

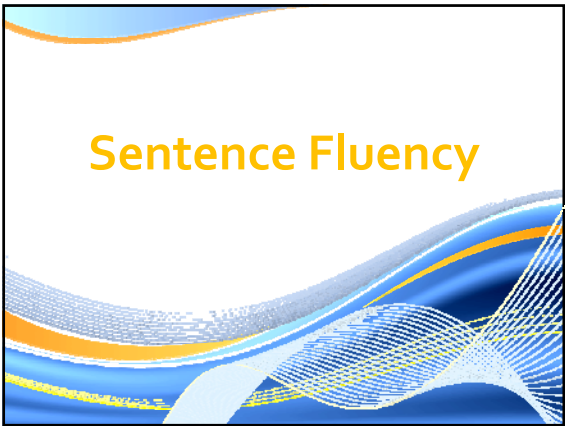


GOALS FOR THIS WORKSHOP
Participants will

1. Understand the key components of the traits of Sentence Fluency & Conventions
2. Recognize student performance at different score levels for Sentence Fluency and Conventions
3. Develop expertise in scoring student writing for classroom and Essential Skills purposes in Sentence Fluency and Conventions

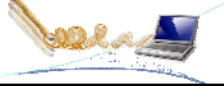


Sentence Fluency



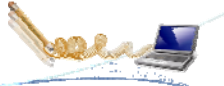
SENTENCE FLUENCY

- Is the writing fairly easy to read aloud? (Supply punctuation wherever natural)
- Enough variety of:
 - sentence structures?
 - sentence beginnings?
 - sentence lengths?



SENTENCE FLUENCY

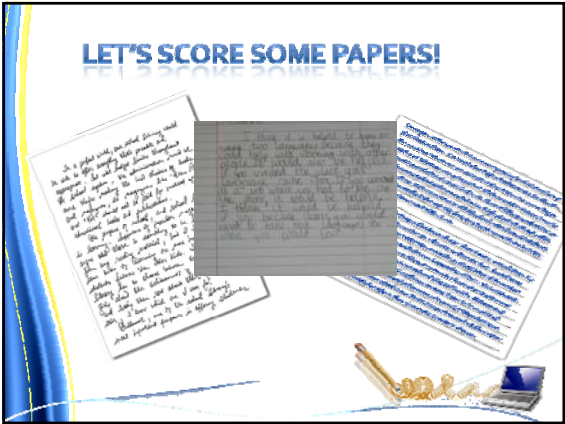
- Marking punctuation is scored under conventions. "Sense of sentence" shows when reading aloud.
- Missing words can affect fluency
- Inverted word order can affect fluency



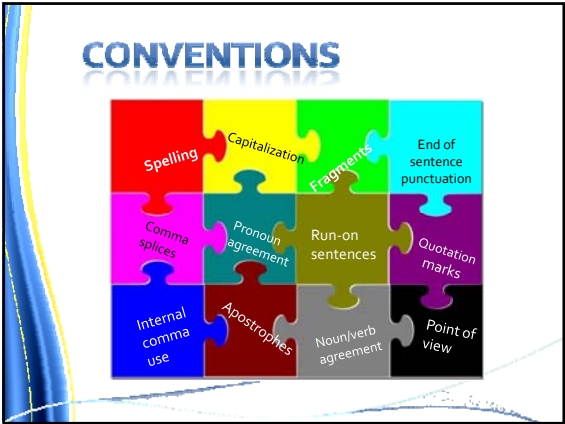
LET'S REVIEW THE SCORING GUIDE



Highlight words and phrases that help distinguish a score of 3 from a 4 in Sentence Fluency








CONVENTIONS

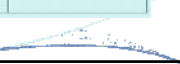
Analyze:

- Kinds of errors
- Significance of errors (refer to grade-level expectations in Skill Level Guidelines)
- Proportion of errors relative to overall text length and complexity




CONVENTIONS

Conventions: Skill Level Guidelines		
Grade 4	Grade 7	Grade 10
Spelling <ul style="list-style-type: none"> correctly spelled common words and bases (roots) of words appropriate to grade level difficult words may be phonetically spelled 	Spelling <ul style="list-style-type: none"> correctly spelled common words appropriate to grade level, and words derived from common bases or roots few misspellings of more difficult words 	Spelling <ul style="list-style-type: none"> correctly spelled common words appropriate to grade level few misspellings of more difficult words
Grammar <ul style="list-style-type: none"> basic control of subject/verb agreement although there may be a few lapses generally correct verb tense in regular and irregular verbs generally correct use of adverbs, prepositions and coordinating conjunctions (and, or, but) 	Grammar <ul style="list-style-type: none"> basic control of noun/pronoun and subject/verb agreement generally correct verb tense in regular and irregular verbs correctly use the various parts of speech and types and structures of sentences 	Grammar <ul style="list-style-type: none"> skill control of subject/verb agreement general control of noun/pronoun agreement correct verb tense in regular and irregular verbs consistent control of point of view (first, second, third person)
Punctuation <ul style="list-style-type: none"> correct end of sentence punctuation use quotation marks to identify the words of a speaker and titles of short works (e.g., articles, poems and songs); apostrophes are generally used correctly in contractions and singular and plural possessives Use commas in dates, locations, and addresses, and for items in a series 	Punctuation <ul style="list-style-type: none"> correct end of sentence punctuation commas are correctly placed in dates and in a series examples of internal punctuation (colons, semicolons) although they may occasionally be incorrect quotation marks, if used, are used correctly; punctuation in dialogue applied accurately apostrophes are used correctly in contractions and singular possessives and plural possessives 	Punctuation <ul style="list-style-type: none"> correct end of sentence punctuation generally correct use of commas (after introductory phrases, in compound sentences, in a series) internal punctuation is generally correct correct use of apostrophes in contractions and singular possessives and plural possessives Use conventions of punctuation correctly, including semicolons, colons, ellipses, and hyphens
Capitalization <ul style="list-style-type: none"> correctly capitalize sentence beginnings, proper nouns, titles (Mr., Mrs., and titles of short works), and pronoun "I" correctly capitalize first and last words of quotations, when appropriate 	Capitalization <ul style="list-style-type: none"> correct capitalization, including within quotation marks 	Capitalization <ul style="list-style-type: none"> correct capitalization, including within quotation marks



CONVENTIONS

- ❖ Correct end-of-sentence punctuation?
 - Run-on sentences (none or very few)
 - Comma splices (none or very few)
 - Fragments (none or just a few effective ones)
- ❖ Correct spelling of common words? (grade level appropriate)
- ❖ Correct capitalization?



CONVENTIONS

- Correct usage?
 - 10th: subject-verb agreement
 - 10th: verb tense: correct? consistent?
 - 10th: point of view (1st, 2nd, and 3rd person) consistent?
- If dialogue present, correctly punctuated & paragraphed?
- Correct internal punctuation (commas, etc.)?

In Conventions:

- Score of 4:** "correct end-of-sentence punctuation; internal punctuation may sometimes be incorrect."
Score of 3: "end-of-sentence punctuation that is usually correct; however, internal punctuation contains frequent errors."

Correct end-of-sentence punctuation means that the writing

- is characterized by complete sentences, punctuated correctly
- avoids run-on sentences
- avoids comma splices
- generally avoids fragments; they are used sparingly and effectively, if at all

Run-on sentences

- complete lack of punctuation between sentences
- never correct (maybe stream of consciousness in published works)

Last summer we camped near Cape Arago on the southern Oregon coast we saw lots of seals, sea lions, cormorants, and other marine life. My brother climbed on the huge rock formations he thought they looked like alien spaceships.

Just for fun, my grandmother and I rode on the tram in Portland from the river up to OHSU it was great because at the top, we could see the whole city, the river, and Mount Hood.

Comma splices

- separating two complete sentences with only a comma
- never correct

Last summer we camped near Cape Arago on the southern Oregon coast, we saw lots of seals, sea lions, cormorants, and other marine life. My brother climbed on the huge rock formations, he thought they looked like alien spaceships.

Just for fun, my grandmother and I rode on the tram in Portland from the river up to OHSU, it was great because at the top, we could see the whole city, the river, and Mount Hood.

Fragments

- parts of sentences; incomplete sentences
- O.K. if used sparingly and effectively
- incorrect if used frequently and ineffectively

Ineffective fragments: We wanted to visit the Interpretive Center at the John Day Fossil Beds. Although we didn't have much time. It shows how eastern Oregon was once a tropical forest. Which is so amazing. Especially since it's a high desert now. At different times various animals lived there. Such as a rhino, an elephant, a saber-toothed cat, and a very small horse.

Effective fragment: The car careened around the icy curves at top speed when it suddenly went into a series of crazy spins. We were thrown violently from one side to another until we came to a stop. A screeching, lurching stop.

7th and 10th Grades:

Verb tense: correct and consistent

Last August our family went to the coast near Newport, and my sister and I tried surfing. We had borrowed boards from a neighbor, and we couldn't wait to try them out.

We paddled out beyond the waves and wait for one that looks just right. Suddenly, one came along. I jump up on top of my board and crouch low until I can fully stand. It seemed like I rode that wave forever! It was one of the most exciting things I ever did, and it happened in Oregon, not Hawaii!

10th Grade:
Point of view (1st, 2nd, 3rd): consistent

My mom and I decided to drive along the old Columbia River Highway to see Vista House at Crown Point. It was built in the 1940's, and they recently renovated it. It's open to the public with no admission fee. When you drive out to the point, which is up very high, you can see a vast area up and down the Columbia. We put a quarter in the huge binoculars there and could see sailboats, colorful windsurfers, barges with cargo, and freighters. At the river's edge you can see trains coming and going, and beyond the river you can see houses and farms, the huge paper mill on the Washington side, and lots of other interesting things.

Error Analysis and Classification

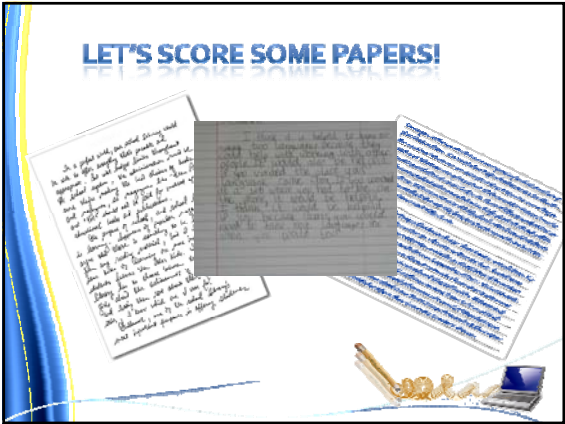
Examples of Errors	Type of Error	Trait Affected
"Someone that encourage you..." "When parents talks about school..." "I wonder where he get the energy..."	Subject/Verb Agreement	Conventions
"Both his grandparent were poor..."	Problem with Plural Form	Conventions
"At the age of 5, both his parents die..." "He had to started working..." "He has always work hard..."	Verb Tense Problem	Conventions
"If one student is doing good..."	Adverb vs. Adjective Form	Conventions
"Some parents requirement a uniform..." "The principal ruler is that you need..." "You need to have a permit of your parents..."	Word Form Problem	Conventions, not word choice
"Second issue is what parents think..." "Big influence in schools is..."	Missing Article (perhaps 1 in an essay can be overlooked, but not if there's a pattern)	Sentence Fluency
"... first thing comes into mind..."	Missing Word(s) (perhaps one can be overlooked but not if there's a pattern)	Sentence Fluency
"What education there will be"	Inverted Word Order	Sentence Fluency
?	Error in Word Use (Wrong word is used)	Word Choice

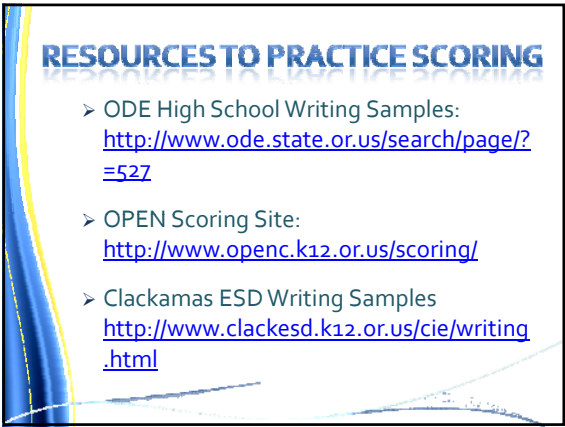
LET'S REVIEW THE SCORING GUIDE



Highlight words and phrases that help distinguish a score of 3 from a 4 in Conventions









**OREGON DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
OFFICIAL SCORING GUIDE, WRITING**

Sentence Fluency	
<p>6 The writing has an effective flow and rhythm. Sentences show a high degree of craftsmanship, with consistently strong and varied structure that makes expressive oral reading easy and enjoyable. The writing is characterized by</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • a natural, fluent sound; it glides along with one sentence flowing effortlessly into the next. • extensive variation in sentence structure, length, and beginnings that add interest to the text. • sentence structure that enhances meaning by drawing attention to key ideas or reinforcing relationships among ideas. • varied sentence patterns that create an effective combination of power and grace. • strong control over sentence structure; fragments, if used at all, work well. • stylistic control; dialogue, if used, sounds natural. 	<p>5 The writing has an easy flow and rhythm. Sentences are carefully crafted, with strong and varied structure that makes expressive oral reading easy and enjoyable. The writing is characterized by</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • a natural, fluent sound; it glides along with one sentence flowing into the next. • variation in sentence structure, length, and beginnings that add interest to the text. • sentence structure that enhances meaning. • control over sentence structure; fragments, if used at all, work well. • stylistic control; dialogue, if used, sounds natural.
<p>4 The writing flows; however, connections between phrases or sentences may be less than fluid. Sentence patterns are somewhat varied, contributing to ease in oral reading. The writing is characterized by</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • a natural sound; the reader can move easily through the piece, although it may lack a certain rhythm and grace. • some repeated patterns of sentence structure, length, and beginnings that may detract somewhat from overall impact. • strong control over simple sentence structures, but variable control over more complex sentences; fragments, if present, are usually effective. • occasional lapses in stylistic control; dialogue, if used, sounds natural for the most part, but may at times sound stilted or unnatural. 	<p>3 The writing tends to be mechanical rather than fluid. Occasional awkward constructions may force the reader to slow down or reread. The writing is characterized by</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • some passages that invite fluid oral reading; however, others do not. • some variety in sentence structure, length, and beginnings, although the writer falls into repetitive sentence patterns. • good control over simple sentence structures, but little control over more complex sentences; fragments, if present, may not be effective. • sentences which, although functional, lack energy. • lapses in stylistic control; dialogue, if used, may sound stilted or unnatural. • text that is too short to demonstrate variety and control.
<p>2 The writing tends to be either choppy or rambling. Awkward constructions often force the reader to slow down or reread. The writing is characterized by</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • significant portions of the text that are difficult to follow or read aloud. • sentence patterns that are monotonous (e.g., subject-verb or subject-verb-object). • a significant number of awkward, choppy, or rambling constructions. 	<p>1 The writing is difficult to follow or to read aloud. Sentences tend to be incomplete, rambling, or very awkward. The writing is characterized by</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • text that does not invite—and may not even permit—smooth oral reading. • confusing word order that is often jarring and irregular. • sentence structure that frequently obscures meaning. • sentences that are disjointed, confusing, or rambling.

**OREGON DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
OFFICIAL SCORING GUIDE, WRITING**

Conventions	
<p>6 The writing demonstrates exceptionally strong control of standard writing conventions (e.g., punctuation, spelling, capitalization, grammar and usage) and uses them effectively to enhance communication. Errors are so few and so minor that the reader can easily skim right over them unless specifically searching for them. The writing is characterized by</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • strong control of conventions; manipulation of conventions may occur for stylistic effect. • strong, effective use of punctuation that guides the reader through the text. • correct spelling, even of more difficult words. • correct grammar and usage that contribute to clarity and style. • skill in using a wide range of conventions in a sufficiently long and complex piece. • little or no need for editing. 	<p>5 The writing demonstrates strong control of standard writing conventions (e.g., punctuation, spelling, capitalization, grammar and usage) and uses them effectively to enhance communication. Errors are few and minor. Conventions support readability. The writing is characterized by</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • strong control of conventions. • effective use of punctuation that guides the reader through the text. • correct spelling, even of more difficult words. • correct capitalization; errors, if any, are minor. • correct grammar and usage that contribute to clarity and style. • skill in using a wide range of conventions in a sufficiently long and complex piece. • little need for editing.
<p>4 The writing demonstrates control of standard writing conventions (e.g., punctuation, spelling, capitalization, grammar and usage). Significant errors do not occur frequently. Minor errors, while perhaps noticeable, do not impede readability. The writing is characterized by</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • control over conventions used, although a wide range is not demonstrated. • correct end-of-sentence punctuation; internal punctuation may sometimes be incorrect. • spelling that is usually correct, especially on common words. • correct capitalization; errors, if any, are minor. • occasional lapses in correct grammar and usage; problems are not severe enough to distort meaning or confuse the reader. • moderate need for editing. 	<p>3 The writing demonstrates limited control of standard writing conventions (e.g., punctuation, spelling, capitalization, grammar and usage). Errors begin to impede readability. The writing is characterized by</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • some control over basic conventions; the text may be too simple or too short to reveal mastery. • end-of-sentence punctuation that is usually correct; however, internal punctuation contains frequent errors. • spelling errors that distract the reader; misspelling of common words occurs. • capitalization errors. • errors in grammar and usage that do not block meaning but do distract the reader. • significant need for editing.
<p>2 The writing demonstrates little control of standard writing conventions. Frequent, significant errors impede readability. The writing is characterized by</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • little control over basic conventions. • many end-of-sentence punctuation errors; internal punctuation contains frequent errors. • spelling errors that frequently distract the reader; misspelling of common words often occurs. • capitalization that is inconsistent or often incorrect. • errors in grammar and usage that interfere with readability and meaning. • substantial need for editing. 	<p>1 Numerous errors in usage, spelling, capitalization, and punctuation repeatedly distract the reader and make the text difficult to read. In fact, the severity and frequency of errors are so overwhelming that the reader finds it difficult to focus on the message and must reread for meaning. The writing is characterized by</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • very limited skill in using conventions. • basic punctuation (including end-of-sentence punctuation) that tends to be omitted, haphazard, or incorrect. • frequent spelling errors that significantly impair readability. • capitalization that appears to be random. • a need for extensive editing.

Conventions: Clarification of “End-of-sentence punctuation”

Score of 4: “correct end-of-sentence punctuation; internal punctuation may sometimes be incorrect” (Scoring Guide)

Score of 3: “end-of-sentence punctuation that is usually correct; however, internal punctuation contains frequent errors” (Scoring Guide)

Correct end-of-sentence punctuation means that the writing

- is characterized by complete sentences, punctuated correctly
- avoids run-on sentences
- avoids comma splices
- generally avoids fragments; they are used sparingly and effectively, if at all

Run-on sentences

- complete lack of punctuation between sentences
- never correct (maybe stream-of-consciousness in published works)

Last summer we camped near Cape Arago on the southern Oregon coast we saw lots of seals, sea lions, cormorants, and other marine life. My brother climbed on the huge rock formations he thought they looked like alien spaceships.

Just for fun, my grandmother and I rode on the tram in Portland from the river up to OSHU it was great because at the top, we could see the whole city, the river, and Mount Hood.

Comma splices

- separating two complete sentences with only a comma
- never correct

Last summer we camped near Cape Arago on the southern Oregon coast, we saw lots of seals, sea lions, cormorants, and other marine life. My brother climbed on the huge rock formations, he thought they looked like alien spaceships.

Just for fun, my grandmother and I rode on the tram in Portland from the river up to OSHU, it was great because we could see the whole city, the river, and Mount Hood.

Fragments

- parts of sentences; incomplete sentences
- OK if used sparingly and effectively
- incorrect if used frequently and ineffectively

Ineffective fragments:

We wanted to visit the Interpretive Center at the John Day Fossil Beds. Although we didn't have much time. It shows how eastern Oregon was once a tropical forest. Which is so amazing. Especially since it's a high desert now. At different times various animals lived there. Such as a rhino, an elephant, a saber-toothed cat, and a very small horse.

Effective fragment:

The car was careening around the icy curve at top speed when it suddenly went into a series of crazy spins. We were thrown violently from one side to another until we came to a stop. A screeching, lurching stop.

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Conventions: Skill Level Guidelines

Grade 4	Grade 7	Grade 10
<p>Spelling</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • correctly spelled common words and bases (roots) of words appropriate to grade level • difficult words may be phonetically spelled <p>Usage</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • basic control of subject/verb agreement although there may be a few lapses • generally correct verb tense in regular and irregular verbs • generally correct use of adverbs, prepositions and coordinating conjunctions (and, or, but) <p>Punctuation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • correct end of sentence punctuation • use quotation marks to identify the words of a speaker and titles of short works (e.g., articles, poems and songs). • apostrophes are generally used correctly in contractions and singular and plural possessives • Use commas in dates, locations, and addresses, and for items in a series <p>Capitalization</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • correctly capitalize sentence beginnings, proper nouns, titles (Mr., Mrs., and titles of short works), and pronoun “I” • correctly capitalize titles and first words of quotations, when appropriate. 	<p>Spelling</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • correctly spelled common words appropriate to grade level, and words derived from common bases or roots • few misspellings of more difficult words <p>Usage</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • basic control of noun/pronoun and subject/verb agreement • generally correct verb tense in regular and irregular verbs • correctly use the various parts of speech and types and structures of sentences <p>Punctuation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • correct end of sentence punctuation • commas are correctly placed in dates and in a series • attempts at internal punctuation (commas, colons, semi-colons) although they may occasionally be incorrect • quotation marks, if used, are used correctly; punctuation in dialogue applied accurately • apostrophes are used correctly in contractions and singular possessives and plural possessives <p>Capitalization</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • correct capitalization, including within quotation marks 	<p>Spelling</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • correctly spelled common words appropriate to grade level • few misspellings of more difficult words <p>Usage</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • solid control of subject/verb agreement • general control of noun/pronoun agreement • correct verb tense in regular and irregular verbs • consistent control of point of view (first, second, third person) <p>Punctuation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • correct end of sentence punctuation • generally correct use of commas (after introductory phrases, in compound sentences, in a series) • internal punctuation is generally correct • correct use of apostrophes in contractions and singular possessives and plural possessives • Use conventions of punctuation correctly, including semicolons, colons, ellipses, and hyphens <p>Capitalization</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • correct capitalization, including within quotation marks

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Error Analysis and Classification

Examples of Errors	Type of Error	Trait Affected
<p>“Someone that encourage you...”</p> <p>“When parents talks about school...”</p> <p>“I wonder where he get the energy...”</p>	Subject/Verb Agreement	Conventions
<p>“Both his grandparent were poor...”</p>	Problem with Plural Form	Conventions
<p>“At the age of 5, both his parents die...”</p> <p>“He had to started working...”</p> <p>“He has always work hard...”</p>	Verb Tense Problem	Conventions
<p>“If one student is doing good...”</p>	Adverb vs. Adjective Form	Conventions
<p>“Some parents requirement a uniform...”</p> <p>“The principal ruler is that you need...”</p> <p>“You need to have a permit of your parents...”</p>	Word Form Problem	Conventions, not word choice
<p>“Second issue is what parents think...”</p> <p>“Big influence in schools is...”</p>	Missing Article (perhaps 1 in an essay can be overlooked, but not if there’s a pattern)	Sentence Fluency
<p>“...first thing comes into mind...”</p>	Missing Word(s) (perhaps one can be overlooked but not if there’s a pattern)	Sentence Fluency
<p>“What education there will be?”</p>	Inverted Word Order	Sentence Fluency
?	Error in Word Use (Wrong word is used.)	Word Choice

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