

Understanding the Writing Common Assessment Activity

Information for Parents and whānau

To pass the Co-requisite using the Common Assessment Activities a student must gain Literacy and Numeracy.

To gain Literacy a student must pass both the Reading test and the Writing test. They are separate tests, each is worth five credits, for a total of 10 Literacy credits.

To gain Numeracy a student only needs to pass the Numeracy test as this one test is worth 10 credits.

After sitting the Common Assessment Activities (CAAs) your child will receive results for any assessment they do not achieve. The table below illustrates this:

Select and use content that is appropriate to purpose and audience.				
No Evidence	Minimal Evidence	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Weak Evidence	Sufficient Evidence	Strong Evidence
Use text structures in ways that are appropriate to purpose, audience, and text type.				
No Evidence	Minimal Evidence	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Weak Evidence	Sufficient Evidence	Strong Evidence
Make language choices that are appropriate to purpose and audience.				
No Evidence	Minimal Evidence	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Weak Evidence	Sufficient Evidence	Strong Evidence
Write text that demonstrates sufficient technical accuracy to communicate meaning, without intrusive errors in spelling, punctuation, or grammar.				
No Evidence	Minimal Evidence	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Weak Evidence	Sufficient Evidence	Strong Evidence
Result <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Not achieved				

There will be a separate results table for each Common Assessment Activity (CAA); one for Reading, one for Writing and one for Numeracy. There are no results tables for assessments that are achieved. You and your student should check every assessment.

The above table is an example of a Writing result. It shows there are four outcomes to achieve:

- Select and use content that is appropriate to purpose and audience
- Use text structure in ways that are appropriate to purpose, audience, and text type
- Make language choices that are appropriate to purpose and audience
- Write text that demonstrates sufficient technical accuracy to communicate meaning without intrusive errors in spelling, punctuation and grammar.

To achieve Writing a student must provide sufficient evidence and/or strong evidence for all four outcomes. If a student provides no evidence, minimal evidence or weak evidence for any of the outcomes they will receive a Not achieved result, as shown in the table above. Understanding your child's strengths and weaknesses will help you support their particular learning needs.

What can you do to help your child prepare for their Writing Common Assessment Activity?

1. Speak to your child's teacher.

Your child's teacher knows the learning that your child needs to be successful in the Writing CAA. They can help guide you on how best to help your child with advice and resources.

2. Family and whānau can help to develop their child's writing skills.

Here are some ideas on how you can help to strengthen your child's writing skills:

- Show your child that you write for a number of different reasons e.g. emails, shopping lists, blogs, job applications. Get them involved where possible.
- Do word puzzles such as crosswords and word finds together.
- Help your child find reasons to write. For example, ask them to write the shopping list whilst you look in the cupboards, record a family trip in photos and ask them to write what is happening, start a family blog and take turns each day on who in the family is writing, write a special holiday email to friends and family.
- Have a clear-out and sell some things online asking your child to write the description. (You could offer a share of the profits as motivation!)
- Ask them about the writing they are doing at school. Ask them share a piece they are particularly proud of with you.
- Encourage them to look up words they do not know the meaning of in a dictionary or online dictionary.
- Have a family word of the day. See how many times in an hour or a day your family can use the word. Hint: Pick something random to make it extra challenging.

3. Students can develop their own writing skills.

Here are some ideas on how your child can strengthen their own writing skills:

- Keep a diary, journal or write lists of things you need to do. (Don't forget to add your homework! 😊)
- Write song, lyrics, poetry, design a comic or stories for younger siblings if you enjoy this style of writing.
- Make an argument in writing for a special request that you are trying to convince your parents of. If they agree, follow this up with a written contract that you sign to list their conditions.
- Write a letter to your school teacher or principal, or local Member of Parliament, putting forward your opinion on a topic.
- Ask your parents to give you five random words. See if you can write a sentence that includes all of the words. Challenge your sibling to see who can write the best/shortest/funniest sentence.
- Completing crosswords and other word puzzles either in print or online can help with your vocabulary and spelling. Online puzzles, writing and word games can be fun. Check out:

<https://www.stuff.co.nz/puzzles>

<https://pathwaysawarua.com/>

<https://www.nzherald.co.nz/puzzles-and-games/crosswords/>