

**First and Second Nine Weeks  
Georgia Writing Assessment  
Scoring Guidelines**

**Stage 6: The Extending Writer**

7 points	Topic fully elaborated with rich details. Organization sustains writer's purpose and moves the reader through the piece.
7 points	Engages and sustains the reader's interest.
7 points	Creative and novel use of language and effective use of varied sentence patterns.
7 points	Errors in surface features do not interfere with meaning.

**Stage 5: The Engaging Writer**

6 points	Topic well developed. Clear beginning, middle, and end. Organization sustains the writer's purpose.
6 points	Engages the reader.
6 points	Effective use of varied language and sentence patterns.
6 points	Errors in surface features do not interfere with meaning.

**Stage 4: The Experimenting Writer**

5 points	Topic clear and developed; development may be uneven. Clear plan with beginning, middle, and end. Beginning and/or end may be clumsy.
5 points	Written for an audience.
5 points	Experiments with language and sentence patterns. Word combinations and word choice may be novel.
5 points	Errors in surface features may interrupt the flow of communication.

**Stage 3: The Focusing Writer**

4 points	Topic clear even though development is incomplete. Plan apparent although ideas are loosely organized.
4 points	Sense of audience and/or task.
4 points	Minimal variety of vocabulary and sentence patterns.
4 points	Errors in surface features interrupt the flow of communication.

**Stage 2: The Developing Writer**

3 points	Topic beginning to be developed. Response contains the beginning of an organizational plan.
3 points	Limited awareness of audience and/or task.
3 points	Simple word choice and sentence patterns.
3 points	Errors in surface features interfere with communication.

**Stage 1: The Emerging Writer**

2 points	Little of no topic development, organization and/or detail.
2 points	Little awareness of audience or writing task.
2 points	Errors in surface features prevent the reader from understanding the writer's message.

***Total points divided by 20 will give the percentage grade for the writing piece.***