

**Third and Fourth Nine Weeks
Georgia Writing Assessment
Scoring Guidelines**

Stage 6: The Extending Writer

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

Stage 5: The Engaging Writer

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

Stage 4: The Experimenting Writer

4 points	Topic clear and developed; development may be uneven. Clear plan with beginning, middle, and end. Beginning and/or end may be clumsy.
4 points	Written for an audience.
4 points	Experiments with language and sentence patterns. Word combinations and word choice may be novel.
4 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.
3.5 points	Sense of audience and/or task.
3.5 points	Minimal variety of vocabulary and sentence patterns.
3.5 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.