

The Status of Writing in My School: Looking at Student Work
Holistic Rubrics to Set Goals and Improve Writing

Holistic Rubric

Definition:

A holistic rubric does *not* list separate levels of performance for each criterion. A *holistic rubric* assigns a level of performance by assessing performance across multiple criteria as a whole. Holistic rubrics are used on summative assessments to determine how well a student can apply a set of skills.

Using a Holistic Rubric

Identify the Standard(s) :

PA 1.5.6.A: Write with a clear focus, identifying topic, task, and audience and establishing a single point of view

Context:

Independently, within a specified time period without time to revise

Prepare the Task:

Imagine you had the opportunity to live anywhere in the world for a year. Where would you live? Why would you choose this place to live? What would you hope to learn there? Think of where in the world you would choose to live for a year. In a well-developed composition, explain the reasons you would choose this place to live and what you would hope to learn there.

Prepare the Rubric/Scoring Guide:

Score	Description
6	Rich topic/idea development Careful and/or subtle organization Effective/rich use of language
5	Full topic/idea development Logical organization Strong details Appropriate use of language
4	Moderate topic/idea development and organization Adequate, relevant details Some variety in language
3	Rudimentary topic/idea development and/or organization Basic supporting details Simplistic language
2	Limited or weak topic/idea development, organization and/or details Limited awareness of audience and/or task
1	Little topic/idea development, organization and/or details Little or no awareness of audience and/or task

Anchor student work and write commentary that explains why the work is “good enough” to merit the score that is given to it.

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RESPONSE 1:

It is full of beauty and has many things to learn about its culture. It is Italy. Italy is the place I would like to live for a year. I would like to live in Italy because of its natural and man-made beauty. I would like to learn about the culture of Italy.

I would love to wake every morning and look out my window and see the beauty's and wonders of Italy. I would want to see mountains and rivers and lakes. I would also like see some man-made wonders like the leaning tower of Pisa and the Roman coliseum.

I would definitely want to learn about the culture of Italy. I would like to learn what Italy's holidays are and how they celebrate them. Also I would like to learn about what foods they cook for certain holidays and why they cook it.

Because of Italy's beauty, I would like to live there. Because of it's culture I would like to learn about it. These are the reasons I would like to live in Italy.

RESPONSE 2:

I have been living in Massachusetts for all my life. I have traveled for some vacations, but I have never stayed for more than a month. If I could live anywhere in the world for a year, I would love to go to Vietnam. I've been to Vietnam maybe three times in my life. It's where my family live. I was born in America, though.

Vietnam is in Southeast Asia, and is split between North and South Vietnam. The weather is very hot in the daytime , and at night too. There are also a lot of rain showers. I guess you could say it's a tropical area. There are plam trees, beautiful beaches, and a lot of buildings. Vietnam...it s tropical, yet very civilized. I'd probably stay with my family in Vietnam, and get to know them better, something I never actually got to do.

I guess I'd chose Vietnam over any other place in the world because I've had history there. I spent my summers in Vietnam, most of my family members are living in Vietnam. it's basically my home. If only I had a lot more time to spend in Vietnam for a whole year my dream would come true. I could eat ice cream with my nice cousins. I could walk on the beaches and hunt for some seashells. After it has been so long I would adore to se my dog, She is a mixed breed, Pomeranian and shin tzu. She is smart, sweet, and loving.

I hope I could learn more about the rest of my family, also. I hear stories every now and then, but I haven't seen them in nearly five whole years. I heard my favorite cousin is all grown up now, and now he is really doing well in class. But I don't want to just learn more about my family, but more about our culture, I have never gotten to experience in my lifetime. There is so much to learn, that I would love to learn.

I hope my family would like the real me. once they really get to know me. I hope I learn a lot about them and about...myself. I could stay in Vietnam for a whole year. Who knows? Maybe I will get that opportunity. Maybe I'll visit Vietnam again this summer. All I know is that if I do, I'll try my best, and make sure it is a fun, eventful trip that I will never let myself forget. Even when I'm much much older.

RESPONSE 3:

If I could live eny where in the world I would live in Florida. I would live in Florida vecause a lot of family members and friends live their. I would also live their because there are a lot of animals live their like crocodiles, snakes, birds, lizard. monkeys and rats. I also want to go there because of the wildemice. I like wildemic because I like hunteing and exploring, I want to go there so I can find out what people do for fun there, what malls are like their, do they have malls, stuff like that.

RESPONSE 4:

I would chouse tow live in Parise bicas is fantastic. They are menei tings that I can si I like French is interesting The peple is reat they are fan and romantic. They like Tow her Romantic musick. I would like tow make friends it would bey cool and fan a year in Parise wed bey fan, interesting, cool.fantastic I wel fo whet may mather she is cool she loves romantic stol and my tow saw it wil bey wonderful sen I get tow Parise I wel tacke pictchers at wenderol ting like: Tivers, Beachs. Restorants,etc. wel bey vereai hapey.I love the food have Parise is delishes and the calouse are vera lanse.

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RESPONSE 5:

What a glamorous scene! The fragile ripples on the river are flabbergasting, and are almost pulling me in. The water is so inviting, as if it saying "Jump In." But I know better, for it is piranha season, as I call it. Where am I anyway? In Brazil, smack in the middle of the Amazon. my "home" for the year is a gorgeous hut that has vines embracing it. I've always dreamed of fishing in the Amazon River, seeing and learning about exotic animals and fish, and going for a boat ride. The Amazon is my dream come true place to live in for a year, and finally it is coming true. My hands are trembling from excitement! I carefully lift the enormous fish for a picture. Snap! What exactly happened? Everything I experienced right now is a flashback, I woke up early in the dawn. my brother, father, and I briskly followed the native into a fishing boat, We were the only living organisms on the river, not counting the oversized lily pads. I watched my dad put a disgusting worm on a hook that looked more like a miniature anchor. Me and my brother got bored waiting for the fish to take the bait, so we looked for something to amuse each other with. I picked up a tiny stick, and brushed it against my brother's ear. At first, he started slapping his ear viciously, for he thought it was a bug. When he saw it was me, we both burst into laughter. My stomach was hurting from laughing but suddenly, the Fishing pole bent dangerously. My first instinct was to grab the pole. My second instinct told me "Scream!" So I did. It took my dad, brother, and I to pull out the extraordinary fish. We were exhausted at the end, but we learned this fish wasn't half as big as the ones lurking on the bottom of the river.

From the time we started walking around and looking at animals and birds, I hadn't recognized one that I knew, The twigs were breaking under our feet, and the monkeys were having a rather LOUD conversation. Oh yeah, and no technology. My cousin would die if he heard this. He basically lives on video games and television, but not me! We finally came to a stop. Then I noticed, gracefully hanging on a vine, was amarmoset! I was so impressed! His cute little, beady eyes looked at me. The tour guide followed my gaze, and carefully lifted the soft-furred marmoset into my hands! From that millisecond I wanted it to be mine forever. I slowly put it back, and cocked his head at me! Looking around the Amazon was an unforgettable experience.

The hot air filled my lungs, reminding me that today I was going boating. My festooned straw hat was necessary, so I took it, camera, hat, purse, ...ready. We climbed into the newly-polished boat. Automatically, I took out my binoculars. The vast trees were whispering amongst each other. The monkeys started their daily routine of giving us a headache. But I was having a tranquilizing time after were a good distance away from the paranoing monkeys. Everything was just perfect. My hat served as a sunblocker. As we passed through a tunnel of vines, I noticed a most exquisite vine hanging with the most beautiful...designs?!! A shriek escaped from my mouth. "All here iz ze boa constrictor." explained th guide calmly. When we got home, my sister and I couldn't stop laughing, at the picture of my face she captured when I saw the 'colorful vine.'

As I pack my suitcase, I look into the mirror I had just placed inside. looking at the smiling girl who got a deep tan. Is this really me? I went outside to have a last look at the placid, beautiful scenery, and at the soft ripples on the river. I had a strong bond with this place. A movement caught my eye. The marmoset has come to say goodbye! I held it close to my heart. My experiences of fishing, exploring in the Amazon, and boating have left an imprint in my memory. No, never will I forget this year. SPLASH! a fish burst out of the water, making me think, there's always next year! I look down at the marmoset that has cuddled against my arm. Carefully, I place a kiss on her and whisper gently, "See you soon, buddy!"