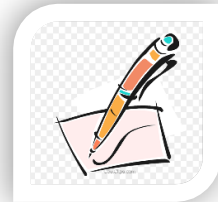


# The Selective Writing Group

Last update Nov 2019

If you already know this system well and only want to sign up, please skip to page 5 for information about registration.

Writing is a difficulty area for primary school students especially for those from non-English speaking background (NESB) whose parents speak a different language at home. It is not uncommon to have most of NESB students in gifted or Opportunity Classes failing to reach the top band of the NAPLAN writing test or failing to get to top 11% in the ICAS writing competition.



## The Choices

Writing in Australian exams (NAPLAN, ICAS, scholarship and selective school tests) is mostly based on two main types: persuasive and narrative writing tasks. They may ask for a full work or a partial work. For example, one exam may ask for a full but short narrative (story) or just one aspect of it such as characterisation or orientation (the beginning). To do well, students need to know both persuasive and narrative formats. They also need to be able to complete the task within the limit of 20-15 minutes.

While students do spelling and writing every day at primary school, often their school writing work is very basic. They learn how to spell words and write basic sentences before getting to the paragraph level. It's a surprise that many students at year 5 or higher still do not even know that a paragraph has a formal structure. This unfortunate situation at most Australian schools creates the situation where some students who are naturally good with language tend to excel in writing while others are left behind. However, even among students who excel in writing, many tend to be inconsistent. This means they may not perform well on a particular day of exam with a particular writing prompt, and this is simply because they have not been trained properly.

Many parents now decide to send their kids to specialised writing tutoring classes for the purpose of selective school and scholarship tests. They also want their kids to write well in the NAPLAN test and hope for a better school English mark to go into the selective school application and school report. This becomes a real burden when many kids already go to regular tutoring classes do English, mathematics and general ability where the writing part of English tuition is generally useless. When tutors have to deal with several areas within one tutoring class, they just do not have the time to produce any decent quality for the writing component in order to help students do really well in competitive writing tasks.

## Our Offer

What we offer is a different solution where students learn to write online with focus on competitive performance in narrative and persuasive writing. We provide guides and online learning modules to help kids to learn on their own or with guidance from parents. Parents can do the marking for their kids' work with assistance from an online

marking tool. We also offer an *optional* professional marking service where parents pay for the marking of their kids' writing work. The marker will analyse the work, point out strengths and weaknesses and recommend what to do to improve the work. Students get a report with hand-written annotations on their text, marking criteria, quality ratings and a summary comment with recommendations on how to improve the work.

**Marker's comments:**

Your narrative structure is fine. So is grammar and punctuation. The dialogues are great. However the story is short and you rushed at the end. There is no theme and hardly any complex sentence.

You can improve your writing by adding another complication leading to a climax at the end. You can attempt to have at least 1 descriptive paragraph showing a variety of sentences (short and long). You should try to add a theme. For example, you can start with Joe and Marie having a personality conflict at the beginning. Then during the course of events, they had to work together to survive and at the end they changed for the better and became closer as friends. This will make a huge difference to your story. Try to put these improvements into your next attempt on this topic (or another one).

**Student response:**

Afternoon Rayhem *WIGG*

In 2350, Marie who was an astronaut was on the ISS 2.0. The day started off normally. Marie checked the computers for bugs. She ate a packet of apple juice. And she put on her spacesuit for a spacewalk. When she was at the airlock she told Joe, a groundswell.

"Hey Marie, guess what we are doing today?" said Joe. *not a fellow*

"Replacing a antenna," answered Marie.

Joe then pulled the airlock open. Marie and Joe started to climb the sub ladder to the broken antenna.

"Um... Joe what's that?" asked Marie.

"Oh MY GOD!" screamed Joe, "A giant piece of space junk is zooming 1000 kilometers a hour at us!"

"Let's get the heck out of here!" screamed Marie.

Joe and Marie immediately climb the outer ladder back to the airlock. KABOOM! The piece of space junk rammed into the space station slung a module from the station.

"That could have been us!" said Joe.

"I hope that nobody was in that module!" said Marie.

They then climbed back into what's left of the station.

"What's going on?" asked Marie. *YIP!*

"I think that module that WIGG off was important," replied Joe. *POD*

There was nearly complete darkness around them. Joe then checked his *peeping* *Reyn-* (POD).

"Oh crap!" said Joe. "That module was linked to the main solar array which means the station won't have as much power as what is needed." *like, well*

Then suddenly the room started to get colder and the lights were even dimmer.

"Let's get our asses out of here!" yelled Joe while climbing towards the escape pod room. Marie was right behind him. They got into a escape pod and zoomed towards earth. Soon they were reentering the atmosphere.

"That was a close one!" said Marie. *A good place for another complication*

Length: 292 words

Marker's comment

Marker's hand-written highlights and annotations using digital pen

**What you have achieved in this writing task**

#	Criteria	Achieved
1	Very little conventional spelling (Spelling-0)	✓
2	Little or no evidence of sentence punctuation (Punctuation-0)	✓
3	No evidence of sentences (Sentence structure-0)	✓
4	No evidence of paragraphs (Paragraphing-0)	✓
5	No evidence of cohesion (Cohesion-0)	✓
6	Little or no evidence (Vocabulary-0)	✓
7	Little or no evidence (Character and setting-0)	✓
8	No evidence (Ideas-0)	✓
9	Little or no evidence (Text structure-0)	✓
10	Little or no evidence (Audience-0)	✓
11	Few examples of conventional spelling (Spelling-1)	✓
12	Minimal punctuation (Punctuation-1)	✓
13	Some correct formation of sentences (Sentence structure-1)	✓
14	Mostly correct paragraphs (Paragraphing-1)	✓
15	Little evidence of cohesion (Cohesion-1)	✓
16	Few content words (Vocabulary-1)	✓
17	Names of setting/characters (Character and setting-1)	✓
18	Very few/simple/unrelated ideas (Ideas-1)	✓
19	Minimal evidence (Text structure-1)	✓
20	Some simple written content (Audience-1)	✓
21	Most simple/some common words correct (Spelling-2)	✓
22	Some correct sentence punctuation (Punctuation-2)	✓
23	Most simple sentences are correct (Sentence structure-2)	✓
24	Effective/accurate paragraphs (Paragraphing-2)	✓
25	Some correct cohesive links (Cohesion-2)	✓
26	Mostly simple words used (Vocabulary-2)	✓
27	Characters/setting briefly described (Character and setting-2)	✓
28	Few or very predictable ideas (Ideas-2)	✓
29	Beginning and complication (Text structure-2)	✓
30	Simple narrative markers (Audience-2)	✓
31	Most simple/common words correct (Spelling-3)	✓
32	Accurate sentence punctuation (Punctuation-3)	✓
33	Some complex sentences correct (Sentence structure-3)	✓
34	Correct use of cohesive links (Cohesion-3)	✓
35	Some precise words used (Vocabulary-3)	✓
36	Developed characters/setting (Character and setting-3)	✓
37	Some development / elaboration of ideas (Ideas-3)	✓
38	Orientation, complication and resolution (Text structure-3)	✓

**The question:**

Please write a short story in response to any prompt on this web page

[Click here for creative writing prompts](#)

The text should be between 350-400 words.

**Student response:**

Noah's jaw dropped. He stroked the bundle wrapped in a pink blanket.

"Isn't she adorable?" Mum asked.

"She's alright... I just hope she doesn't steal any attention..." Noah replied.

Mum laughed. "C'mon, boy. Let's go."

A few weeks later, Noah sat with Lizzie in his arms. "Noey bad bu-oy. Noey bad bu-oy." Lizzie gurgled.

"Ma, she's being annoying!" Noah yelled.

Mum walked into the room and scooped up Lizzie. She snapped at Noah not to say bad things about her sister. Noah groaned with frustration. He shoed them out of his room and sunk into his bed, staring at the ceiling and cursing at Lizzie for being such an annoying child.

The next day at school, Noah frowned.

"What's up?" Sam asked.

"Ugh, Lizzie's being annoying. I hate that she exists."

Sam scoffed. "Family's like that, brah. Ya get used to it."

When Noah got home, he threw his school bag on the table and rushed upstairs to play video games. After a while, a knock on the door was heard.

"Go away!" he roared.

The door slowly opened and Lizzie was cautiously stepping one foot in front of the other.

"Aren't you proud of her?" Mum warmly asked.

Noah picked her up and stroked her hair while she giggled.

"I guess so. Welcome, baby sister. Something I should've said earlier."

Length: 221 words

Marking criteria check list









Quality ratings	1	2	3	4	5
Sentence variety			●		
Punctuation					●
Paragraph					●
Structure				●	
Word choice				●	
Cohesion				●	
Coherence				●	
Techniques				●	
Creativity			●		
Ideas			●		
Theme				●	
Entertaining			●		
Audience			●		

Quality ratings

This online writing approach is designed to save students the time going to specialised writing tutoring classes. In addition, it also provides those who are doing general tutoring classes the extra help in writing and professional marking service at the high quality required for competitive exams.

## The Learning Modules

Learning modules to improve writing ... [[hints](#)] [[guides](#)] sample [[student works](#)] [[adult works](#)]

 <p>Writing Workshop</p>	<p>This module provides a resource to support parents in helping kids improve their writing skills across all text types commonly taught at school between year 5-8. Writing is very important for students get good English school marks for selective school application and also extremely important in scholarship tests.</p>
 <p>Story Starters</p>	<p>The Story Starter module provide students with lots of writing prompts and sample short stories. It is designed for students to practise writing the opening of a narrative.</p>
 <p>Writing Planner</p>	<p>The Planner Writing module is designed to help students memorise the format for narrative and persuasive writing. By filling in a form with the right information, it will compile and generate a writing job in the right format.</p>
 <p>Read Summarise Write</p>	<p>The Read Summarise Write designed to help students bridge between every day writing and creative writing in terms of ideas. Students often find themselves lacking ideas for writing. This module features over 100 sample stories of various length. The objective is to ask students to summarise and borrow the ideas to write their own narratives. This help them familiarise and get on with narrative writing before they can come up with their own ideas.</p>
 <p>English literary devices</p>	<p>This module extracts English questions that shows how English literary devices are employed to make writing more interesting. It is a great tool to help writers to research on how to improve writing works.</p>
 <p>Punctuation</p>	<p>This module provides access to video resources about sentence structure and punctuation. It also provides exercises for students to improve their English punctuation.</p>
 <p>Spelling</p>	<p>The spelling module provides students with a variety of word lists covering several subject areas. It is useful for students to improve spelling accuracy and vocabulary.</p>
 <p>Video Resources</p>	<p>Video Resources is a module providing access to hundreds of learning videos across many topics. This is very useful for improving English skills, math skills, science knowledge and general knowledge.</p>

## Writing tasks

Students are offered a simple set of tasks to target NAPLAN, Selective and Scholarship writing situations with appropriate time limits. Each of them connects to a huge number of prompts or topics allowing students to pick anything they like. Students can redo a task as many times (using different prompts) as they like after it has been marked. This means there is virtually no limit on how many writing tasks one can do.

### Do your writing tasks (wr0001)

You have \$0 writing credit in your account. The fee for professional marking is \$20 per task. Go to [\[Top Up Credit\]](#)

Each task has a lot of prompts/topics to choose ... Once marked, a task can be taken again ([more info ...](#))

**Available tasks ...**

Task name	Time allowed	Attempts	Action
01 - NAPLAN narrative writing task	40	1	<a href="#">redo it</a>
01 - Selective School narrative writing task	20	1	<a href="#">redo it</a>
01 - Scholarship narrative writing task	25	1	waiting to be marked
02 - NAPLAN persuasive writing task	40	1	<a href="#">redo it</a>
02 - Selective School persuasive writing task	20	1	<a href="#">redo it</a>
02 - Scholarship persuasive writing task	25	1	<a href="#">redo it</a>
03 - General narrative writing task	60		<a href="#">take it</a>
03 - General persuasive writing task	60		<a href="#">take it</a>

**Attempted tasks ...**

Task result	Time (m)	Date	Score	Status
01 - NAPLAN narrative writing task (attempt 1)	0.40	05-Nov-2019 12:11	72.18	marked <a href="#">view</a>
01 - Selective School narrative writing task (attempt 1)	0.03	05-Nov-2019 01:11	72.93	marked <a href="#">view</a>
01 - Scholarship narrative writing task (attempt 1)	0.04	05-Nov-2019 10:11	0.00	waiting to be marked <a href="#">view</a>
02 - Scholarship persuasive writing task (attempt 1)	0.04	05-Nov-2019 11:11	64.29	marked <a href="#">view</a>
02 - Selective School persuasive writing task (attempt 1)	0.31	05-Nov-2019 11:11	0.00	marked <a href="#">view</a>
02 - NAPLAN persuasive writing task (attempt 1)	0.13	05-Nov-2019 11:11	73.02	marked <a href="#">view</a>

## Professional marking service

Beside the included one professional marking service per month, parents can do the marking for their kids if they do not wish to pay for extra professional marking service. As an option, parents can request professional marking by paying a fee for each request. To make this possible, parents put in a deposit in advance and this enables them to make a request for professional marking.

## What is the cost?

Users get a free trial period of 14 days. The monthly fee is **\$10** payable in advance which does NOT include professional marking. **PayPal** is preferred however other payment methods are available at request.

### Examples of payment

\$10 for 1 month	1 month access
\$15 for 1 professional marking request	1 professional marking task

A demo account is available for public viewing: login **wrdemo** and password **demo**. This account cannot be used for doing tests for real.

### How do I enrol my child in the writing program?

You can enrol your child in the writing program by filling an online form using this URL

<http://selectivewriting.com/register.html>

Copy and paste this code to activate your account: **SignMeUp**  
After submitting the form, an email will be sent to your email for address validation. Check your email and click on the validation to complete the enrolment procedure.

To make a payment, click on the link 'Top Up Credit' on the page 'Marked' and follow the instruction to pay using PayPal. Let PayPal return to the website to update the account. If, for some reason, this does not happen, please send in a message to ask for manual update of the account.

Beside the membership fee, any marking service is at \$15 per request. The credit for professional marking must be deposited in advance into the account before one can request the service.

### Still have questions?

Please email [selectiveschoolwriting@gmail.com](mailto:selectiveschoolwriting@gmail.com) with your questions.