



Office of Academics
2110 Washington Boulevard
Arlington, Virginia 22204

To be shared with parents by schools through Parent Square and posted on APS website through which translation will take place.

Dear Parent/Guardian:

Recently, ninth and tenth-grade students participated in a Performance Based Assessment (PBA) in the area of writing. The use of this PBA is recommended by the Virginia Department of Education (VDOE) and aligns with best practices for assessment of writing. This PBA required students to read a passage and compose a written response to a prompt, which mimics the new English SOL test item that they will take in 11th grade.

Student responses were scored anonymously by two APS teachers based on the [high school writing rubric](#) from the VDOE. The two scores were averaged to produce a score out of 12 points. Students received a holistic score in two domains: **Composition/Written Expression** (the writer's ability to defend a position and cogently organize his/her thoughts) and **Usage/Mechanics** (the writer's ability to form competent sentences and adhere to grammatical conventions). A breakdown of the scores can be found below:

Score	Category	Description
8-12	Proficient	The writer demonstrates consistent and/or reasonable control in the areas of Composition/Written Expression and Usage/Mechanics
4-7	Approaching Proficiency	The writer demonstrates inconsistent control in the areas of Composition/Written Expression and Usage/Mechanics
1-3	Did not demonstrate proficiency	The writer demonstrates little/no control in the areas of Composition/Written Expression and Usage/Mechanics

You can view this score in Parent Vue under test history.

If you would like to see your student's writing submission, you will need a Parent Canvas Account. If you already have an account and are paired with your student, you will see a course on your Canvas Dashboard: SY25 Gr9 IRW PBA (9th grade) or SY25 Gr10 Writing PBA (10th grade). If you do not have a Canvas Parent account, here are [Step-by-Step instructions to Create your Observer account and pair with your child](#). Once that is completed, you will see the course on your Canvas Dashboard. Please note that access to this course ends on May 31st, 2025 at 11:59PM, after which the course will no longer be visible.

For further questions, please contact your student's English teacher.

Thank you for your support,

The ELA Office of Academics