



## **SIX-TRAIT ANALYTICAL WRITING ASSESSMENT (AWA)**

In order to measure student progress, the district developed assessments in each core subject area and adopted guidelines called Essential Learning Outcomes (ELO) to ensure that all Millard high school graduates, beginning with the class of 2004, are skilled in the core academic areas. The district's writing ELO, the Six-Trait Analytical Writing Assessment, is given to students during the 10<sup>th</sup> grade. The AWA assesses the student's writing ability using the Six-Trait Writing Rubric. The Six Traits include:

- Ideas and Content
- Organization
- Word Choice
- Sentence Fluency
- Voice
- Conventions

Beginning with the 2009-2010 school year, current 10<sup>th</sup> graders will be assessed in two writing modes:

- Expository
- Persuasive

Current 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> graders who have not yet obtained the Writing ELO cutscore will be assessed in the three writing modes they were initially assessed in:

- Narrative
- Expository
- Persuasive

Prompts for each essay are provided on the testing day.

All students are given instruction on six-trait writing in their English courses along with multiple opportunities to practice writing in each mode.

Students must meet the district's set "cut score" to demonstrate mastery of the Writing ELO. For those who do not meet the established cut score, multiple opportunities for re-teaching and re-assessment are available.

Parents will be mailed the results of the student's Analytical Writing Assessment.