

# PEG Writing in Texas Frequently Asked Questions

PEG Writing® was designed based on the Six Trait Writing Model. While the PEG Writing rubric and the State of Texas Assessments of Academic Readiness (STAAR®) writing assessment rubrics share some similarities, PEG Writing is not intended to serve as a test preparation tool or a predictor of test performance. PEG Writing is a *formative* assessment tool that students can use to get immediate feedback on their writing and revisions and teachers can use to provide differentiated instruction and support.



A chart and list of frequently asked questions regarding the comparability of PEG Writing and STAAR® writing assessments follow.

| PEG Writing Is...  | PEG Writing Is Not...  |
|--|--|
| A system that provides feedback based on the Six Trait Writing Model, plus spelling and grammar, content accuracy, and textual evidence  | A resource to be used independently of teacher feedback and instruction                          |
| A useful diagnostic tool that: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• accelerates the feedback loop;</li> <li>• focuses revision on higher-level writing skills such as ideas, organization, and word choice; and</li> <li>• operates in conjunction with instruction</li> </ul> | A resource to be used as a test preparation tool or as a predictor of test performance           |
| A springboard for dialogue between teacher and student; student and student; and student and self  | A replacement for classroom conversations in which feedback is offered, interpreted, and applied |
| A motivational tool designed to help students achieve goals in improving their writing   | A standalone tool in which students work in isolation  |

### Why isn't PEG Writing aligned with STAAR®?

PEG Writing is not designed as a standardized assessment instrument. Instead, PEG Writing is a formative assessment tool that students can use to get immediate feedback on their writing and guidance during the revision process. Teachers can use PEG feedback to inform their instruction and teaching practices. PEG scoring rubrics are based on six core dimensions of writing performance.

(<http://www.pegwriting.com/texas-resources>)

### What does a PEG score translate to on STAAR®?

PEG scores are not intended as predictors of standardized test performance, nor can they be translated to a standardized test measure. Feedback offered by PEG is intended as a diagnostic assessment of writing that focuses on higher-level writing skills (ideas, organization, word choice) and guides the revision process for students.

### How does the use of PEG Writing software shape instruction?

PEG is a reliable, efficient diagnostic tool that provides immediate feedback on writing to both students and teachers. Teachers can use the feedback as a springboard to converse with students about the writing and revision process, helping them interpret and apply the feedback. Also, teachers can use the program to facilitate peer review.

### How does the use of such software help struggling writers?

Research has shown the importance of timely and individual feedback as a factor in improving student writing. PEG Writing accelerates the feedback loop for students, cultivates self-reflection on writing, and delivers recommended lessons and activities designed to support the revision process. With the support of teachers, struggling writers get the benefit of diagnostic feedback and instructional scaffolds before submitting subsequent drafts.

### Can PEG Writing be used to prepare students for standardized tests?

PEG Writing is not a test prep program. It is a formative assessment writing program that offers students opportunities to receive immediate, descriptive feedback on their writing as well as opportunities for practice, revision, and improvement. The immediacy of this feedback and the suggestions for students aid the revision process and enable students to take ownership of the writing process.

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