

Let It Snow, Let It Snow, Let It Snow

(Poetry Writing/Composing Music)

Assessment Tool: Holistic Scoring Grid

Grades K-2

Holistic Scoring

The holistic method of scoring is based on the assumption that the whole is greater than the sum of the parts. In holistic scoring, the rater looks at a piece of writing as an indication of how well the writer has used the English language to accomplish the task of communicating an idea or message. Three features are included in the holistic scoring approach:

- A common writing assignment for all students
- A common writing time for all students
- The uniform application of a detailed scoring guide by which all students' responses are judged.

The first reading is designed to get a general impression of the quality of the response. Rather than making separate judgment about content, organization, syntax, mechanics, etc., the rater makes a single judgment about the overall quality of the writing. Since a piece of writing communicates a whole message, holistic evaluation by a respondent provides a way of coming close to what is essential in the art of communication.