



Online Writing Instruction Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

1. What is *Online Writing Instruction*?

- a. *Online Writing Instruction* is new for 2011-12 and is taking the place of the Writing Instruction System (WIS) that was used in 2009-10 and 2010-11.

2. Is *Online Writing Instruction* an assessment system?

- a. No, *Online Writing Instruction* is meant to be used as an instructional tool or resource to evaluate writing of students and adjust instruction accordingly.

3. Is *Online Writing Instruction* required?

- a. *Online Writing Instruction* is strongly encouraged for use as an instructional tool because writing is integral to the Common Core State Standards for ELA and other NC Essential Standards.

4. Who can use *Online Writing Instruction*?

- a. *Online Writing Instruction* can be used with grades 3-12.

5. When is *Online Writing Instruction* available for use?

- a. *Online Writing Instruction* is accessed through NC Education and is currently available for use through June 2012.

6. What is the Language Calculation Feature and how does it work?

- a. The Language Calculation Feature is an auto-intelligence tool that evaluates electronically submitted student writing for grammar, spelling, usage, and sentence structure. Results are displayed graphically. The writing will still need to be evaluated by the teacher for content.

7. How many writing assignments are teachers required to assign using *Online Writing Instruction*?

- a. There is no required number of assignments to be completed. *Online Writing Instruction* is a formative tool and should be used accordingly.

8. Is there an end of year assessment for *Online Writing Instruction*?

- a. No, *Online Writing Instruction* is strictly for instructional use. It is not intended to be an assessment and is not considered a final assessment such as the Writing Test that used to be required for grades 4 and 7.



9. Is there a professional development module available for teachers?

- a. Not at this time. A professional development module designed to align writing instruction with the writing standards of the *CCSS* in English/Language Arts and the *Literacy Standards in History, Social Studies, Science and Technical Subjects* is under construction and will be available late fall, 2011.

10. Who should be contacted if technical issues arise?

- a. Contact the Help Desk at ncdesk@ncsu.edu or 919.515.1320.