

**CRITERIONSM ONLINE WRITING
EVALUATION – A WEB-BASED
SERVICE FOR REAL-TIME
EVALUATION OF ENGLISH-WRITING
SKILLS, PROVIDING INSTANT
DIAGNOSTIC FEEDBACK AND
SCORING**

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CriterionSM Online Writing Evaluation – a Web-Based Service for Real-Time Evaluation of English-Writing Skills, Providing Instant Diagnostic Feedback and Scoring

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Instant essay feedback that builds writing skills – in school or at home

Writing instructors have long acknowledged that students gain confidence by writing frequently and receiving constructive, annotated feedback. How long does it take you to evaluate an essay and give students the feedback they need? Instantly, using CriterionSM Online Writing Evaluation.

In this session, we will demonstrate CriterionSM, a web-based service for real-time evaluation of English essays. The service allows students to submit essays online for e-marking and receive reliable, annotated feedback and online scores – in an instant. Feedback is based on widely accepted writing criteria. To understand the errors highlighted in their essays and to enhance their understanding of the writing process, students can access a context-sensitive Writer's Handbook. Practising in the classroom or at home, they write and revise their essays in a self-paced, risk-free environment. While students are motivated to improve their skills, CriterionSM gives teachers what they need most: time to teach and to assess classroom performance.

Automated scoring technologies

Developed by ETS (Educational Testing Service), CriterionSM is powered by automated scoring technologies, grounded in research. They provide both the teacher and the student with a constructive understanding of the writer's strengths and weaknesses. The technology captures and displays actual errors and features within essays submitted online. CriterionSM combines the strengths of e-rater technology, writing analysis tools, and discourse analysis tools.

Holistic scoring is provided by *E-rater®*, a powerful scoring engine. *Critique* gives real-time feedback about the most important elements of writing: grammar, usage, mechanics and style, and organisation and development. Score

descriptions from rubrics and sample essays for each score point complement the score analysis and essay summary.

Teacher controls writing options and feedback reporting

Criterion topics are available at a variety of difficulty levels, with feedback adapted to the appropriate level for organisation and structure. The software allows teachers to control both the writing options and the feedback they want their students to receive. Teachers can create their own, instruction-specific topics and assignments. Also, they can complement Criterion's automated analysis with individual teacher comments to enhance and customise the feedback. Furthermore, CriterionSM offers easy access to student portfolios and class error reports – allowing teachers to track student and class progress online.