

Directions for Using Tally Sheet for Problems/Issues in Student Writing and Follow-up Guiding Questions for PLCs

Directions: This tally sheet is to help you identify the writing errors and issues pertinent to the majority of your students (in one class) so that you can plan your instruction accordingly. It's a tool for you to adapt to your needs and style of scoring and reading of student writing. Below is a suggestion, for how you might use it.

As you score a stack of papers, keep the rubric and tally sheet next to you. As you apply the rubric, you are looking for the preponderance of evidence that matches a score point. Don't get bogged down by one feature being slightly out of line or clearly lower than the overall score you think a paper deserves holistically. After you score each paper, ask yourself, **"What is the most significant problem with this paper?"** (You may have more than one answer to this question and that is okay.) Find the problem(s) (only one or two) on the tally sheet and place a mark in that box. If you don't see the problem listed, you may write or make changes on the grid that reflect what you are seeing in the writing. We tried to capture the common problems that we have identified after reading hundreds of 6-9th grade PWAs. You might decide that you can't do this for every paper or you might come across some papers that are hard to pin down. Just skip over these and go on to the next paper. This tally sheet should not significantly slow down your scoring process!

A note about conventions....Obviously, we can't include every possible grammar, mechanics, and spelling error imaginable on this tally sheet. We chose to include some very serious errors that require explicit instruction to address.

After you score: Look over the tally sheet and answer the following questions:

1. What do I see? What patterns are emerging?
2. What are the strengths in the class?
3. What are the weaknesses in the class?
4. What is one area that I need to pay attention to?
5. What is one strategy I can try?

Next Steps for Writing Instruction Protocol for PLCs