Prose Constructed Response Rubrics

Based on PARCC Rubrics revised August, 2013

This document contains simplified, user-friendly Prose Constructed Response Rubrics for analytic and narrative writing in grades 1-5. Each rubric is available in a condensed and expanded format allowing for greater flexibility in scoring.

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Using Rubrics

This rubric pack includes user- friendly **Prose Constructed Response (PCR)** rubrics for each grade level. Prose Constructed Responses are on-demand writing pieces that are crafted in response to text, or prose.

These rubrics use the same language as those developed by PARCC for grades 4-5 or grade 3 (criteria have been scaled down for grades 1-2). The official PARCC rubrics address both analytic (opinion and informational) and for narrative. However, an asterisk on the rubrics indicates that narrative pieces are no longer scored for their demonstration of **reading comprehension**. While narrative writing will be written in response to a piece of prose, they will only scored for their **writing content** and **language conventions**, not for evidence of reading comprehension. Therefore, the rubrics are adjusted accordingly.

In addition, there are two versions of each rubric—a **condensed** and an **expanded**. In August 2013, PARCC revised its Prose Constructed Response (PCR) rubric to make it condensed. This means it collapsed all of the writing content into one component and a single goal for possible points. You may find it helpful to use the **expanded** for instruction because it allows for more distinctions in each category.

Each rubric features precise language from PARCC rubrics; this allows students to become familiar with this language for the assessments. At this time, students may access PARCC rubrics during PARCC assessments. Therefore, it is a good idea to familiarize students with this language.

Hints for teaching using PCR rubrics:

- Use rubrics often throughout the writing process and instruction.
- Read and think aloud what each section of the rubric means.
- Write (next to the bullet) what it means in plain language (see page 2 for an example).
- Model scoring writing using the rubric; underling key words and phrases in the writing that matches the rubric descriptors.
- Show students exemplars of writing that meets the criteria for each of the sections.
- Encourage students to self-assess using the rubric, highlighting sections of their writing that match the rubric components.
- Require students to revise and edit Prose Constructed Responses that fall short of the standard. *Model and guide this first!*

Condensed Prose Constructed Response Rubric
Grades 4-5
Analytic Writing

With Kid-Friendly Annotations

Reading	**Comprehension of Key Ideas and Details** ☐ provides an **accurate analysis** of what the text says explicitly and inferentially ==correctly explains what the text says (*right there* and *think about it*)== ☐ **references the text explicitly** to support the analysis ==uses words and phrases to prove answer== ☐ **shows full comprehension** of complex ideas expressed in the texts ==shows you understand the entire texts==	**___/3**
Writing	**Development** ☐ **addresses the prompt** ==answers the question(s)== ☐ provides effective and comprehensive **development of the topic** and/or narrative elements by using clear reasoning, details, and/or description ==clearly explains the topic using reasons, details, and descriptions== ☐ the development is consistently **appropriate** to the **task, purpose, and audience** ==writing is a good match for the task, purpose, and audience== **Organization** ☐ demonstrates effective **coherence, clarity,** and **cohesion** ==organized well using a text structure with easy to follow paragraphs== ☐ includes a ==**strong**== **introduction** ☐ includes a ==**strong**== **conclusion**	**___/3**
	Clarity of Language ☐ **uses language well** to attend to the norms and conventions of the discipline ☐ includes **concrete words and phrases, sensory details, linking** and **transitional words** ==specific verbs, adjectives, or adverbs; words to connect ideas like ALSO, NEXT, FINALLY== ☐ includes **domain-specific vocabulary** effectively to clarify ideas ==Science, Social Studies, or other words==	
	Knowledge of Language and Conventions ☐ demonstrates command of the conventions of standard English consistent with effectively edited writing ○ **correct spelling, capitalization, and punctuation** ☐ few minor errors in **grammar and usage** ☐ ==**meaning is clear**== throughout the response	**___/4**
	TOTAL	**___/10**

Condensed Prose Constructed Response Rubric
Grades 4-5
Analytic Writing

Reading	**Comprehension of Key Ideas and Details** ❐ provides an **accurate analysis** of what the text says explicitly and inferentially ❐ **references the text explicitly** to support the analysis ❐ **shows full comprehension** of complex ideas expressed in the texts	___/3
Writing	**Development** ❐ **addresses the prompt** ❐ provides effective and comprehensive **development of the topic** and/or narrative elements by using clear reasoning, details, and/or description ❐ the development is consistently **appropriate** to the **task, purpose, and audience** ***Organization*** ❐ demonstrates effective **coherence, clarity,** and **cohesion** ❐ includes a **strong introduction** ❐ includes a **strong conclusion** ***Clarity of Language*** ❐ **uses language well** to attend to the norms and conventions of the discipline ❐ includes **concrete words and phrases, sensory details, linking** and **transitional words** ❐ includes **domain-specific vocabulary** effectively to clarify ideas	___/3
	Knowledge of Language and Conventions ❐ demonstrates command of the conventions of standard English consistent with effectively edited writing ○ **correct spelling, capitalization, and punctuation** ❐ few minor errors in **grammar and usage** ❐ **meaning is clear** throughout the response	___/4
	TOTAL	___/10

Expanded Prose Constructed Response Rubric
Grades 4-5
Analytic Writing

<table>
<tr><td rowspan="1">Reading</td><td>Comprehension of Key Ideas and Details
☐ provides an accurate analysis of what the text says explicitly and inferentially
☐ references the text explicitly to support the analysis
☐ shows full comprehension of complex ideas expressed in the texts</td><td>___/3</td></tr>
<tr><td rowspan="4">Writing</td><td>Development
☐ addresses the prompt
☐ provides effective and comprehensive development of the topic and/or narrative elements by using clear reasoning, details, and/or description
☐ the development is consistently appropriate to the task, purpose, and audience</td><td>___/3</td></tr>
<tr><td>Organization
☐ demonstrates effective coherence, clarity, and cohesion
☐ includes a strong introduction
☐ includes a strong conclusion</td><td>___/3</td></tr>
<tr><td>Clarity of Language
☐ uses language well to attend to the norms and conventions of the discipline
☐ includes concrete words and phrases, sensory details, linking and transitional words
☐ includes domain-specific vocabulary effectively to clarify ideas</td><td>___/3</td></tr>
<tr><td>Knowledge of Language and Conventions
☐ demonstrates command of the conventions of standard English consistent with effectively edited writing
   ○ correct spelling, capitalization, and punctuation
☐ few minor errors in grammar and usage
☐ meaning is clear throughout the response</td><td>___/4</td></tr>
<tr><td></td><td align="right">TOTAL</td><td>___/16</td></tr>
</table>

Condensed Prose Constructed Response Rubric
Grades 4-5
Narrative Writing*

Writing	**Development** ☐ **addresses the prompt** ☐ provides effective and comprehensive **development of narrative elements** such as establishing a situation, organizing a logical event sequence, describing scenes, objects or people, developing characters personalities, and using dialogue as appropriate ☐ the development is consistently **appropriate** to the **task, purpose, and audience** **Organization** ☐ demonstrates effective **coherence, clarity,** and **cohesion** ☐ includes a **strong introduction** ☐ includes a **strong conclusion** **Clarity of Language** ☐ **uses language well** to attend to the norms and conventions of the discipline ☐ includes **concrete words and phrases, sensory details, linking** and **transitional words** ☐ includes **domain-specific vocabulary** effectively to clarify ideas	____/3
	Knowledge of Language and Conventions ☐ demonstrates command of the conventions of standard English consistent with effectively edited writing ○ **correct spelling, capitalization, and punctuation** ☐ few minor errors in **grammar and usage** ☐ **meaning is clear** throughout the response	____/4
	TOTAL	____/7

* The reading dimension is not scored for elicited narrative stories.

Expanded Prose Constructed Response Rubric
Grades 4-5
Narrative Writing*

Writing	**Development** ❑ **addresses the prompt** ❑ provides effective and comprehensive **development of narrative elements** such as establishing a situation, organizing a logical event sequence, describing scenes, objects or people, developing characters personalities, and using dialogue as appropriate ❑ the development is consistently **appropriate** to the **task, purpose, and audience**	___/3
	Organization ❑ demonstrates effective **coherence, clarity,** and **cohesion** ❑ includes a **strong introduction** ❑ includes a **strong conclusion**	___/3
	Clarity of Language ❑ **uses language well** to attend to the norms and conventions of the discipline ❑ includes **concrete words and phrases, sensory details, linking** and **transitional words** ❑ includes **domain-specific vocabulary** effectively to clarify ideas	___/3
	Knowledge of Language and Conventions ❑ demonstrates command of the conventions of standard English consistent with effectively edited writing ○ **correct spelling, capitalization, and punctuation** ❑ few minor errors in **grammar and usage** ❑ **meaning is clear** throughout the response	___/4
	TOTAL	___/13

* The reading dimension is not scored for elicited narrative stories.

Condensed Prose Constructed Response Rubric
Grade 3
Analytic Writing

<table>
<tr><td rowspan="1">Reading</td><td>Comprehension of Key Ideas and Details
☐ demonstrates accurate and full comprehension of the central ideas expressed in the text
☐ references the text explicitly</td><td>___/3</td></tr>
<tr><td rowspan="2">Writing</td><td>Development
☐ addresses the prompt
☐ shows effective development of the topic by using reasoning, details, text-based evidence, and/or description
☐ the development is largely appropriate to the task and purpose
Organization
☐ consistently demonstrates purposeful and controlled organization
☐ includes an introduction
☐ includes a conclusion
Clarity of Language
☐ uses linking words and phrases and/or temporal (time) words
☐ uses descriptive words
☐ expresses ideas with clarity</td><td>___/3</td></tr>
<tr><td>Knowledge of Language and Conventions
☐ demonstrates command of the conventions of standard English consistent with effectively edited writing
    o correct spelling, capitalization, and punctuation
☐ few minor errors in grammar and usage
☐ meaning is clear throughout the response</td><td>___/4</td></tr>
<tr><td></td><td align="right">TOTAL</td><td>___/10</td></tr>
</table>

Expanded *Prose Constructed Response Rubric*
Grade 3
Analytic Writing

Reading	**Comprehension of Key Ideas and Details** ❑ demonstrates accurate and full comprehension of the central ideas expressed in the text ❑ **references the text explicitly**	___/3
Writing	**Development** ❑ **addresses the prompt** ❑ shows effective **development of the topic** by using reasoning, details, text-based evidence, and/or description ❑ the development is largely **appropriate** to the **task and purpose**	___/3
	Organization ❑ consistently demonstrates **purposeful and controlled organization** ❑ includes an **introduction** ❑ includes a **conclusion**	___/3
	Clarity of Language ❑ uses **linking words** and **phrases** and/or **temporal (time)** words ❑ uses **descriptive** words ❑ expresses ideas with **clarity**	___/3
	Knowledge of Language and Conventions ❑ demonstrates command of the conventions of standard English consistent with effectively edited writing o **correct spelling, capitalization, and punctuation** ❑ few minor errors in **grammar and usage** ❑ **meaning is clear** throughout the response	___/4
	TOTAL	___/16

Condensed Prose Constructed Response Rubric
Grade 3
Narrative Writing*

<table>
<tr>
<td rowspan="2">Writing</td>
<td>

Development
- ☐ **addresses the prompt**
- ☐ shows effective **development of the topic** by **using narrative elements** such as establishing a situation, organizing a logical event sequence, describing scenes, objects or people, developing characters personalities, and using dialogue as appropriate
- ☐ the development is largely **appropriate** to the **task and purpose**

Organization
- ☐ consistently demonstrates **purposeful and controlled organization**
- ☐ includes an **introduction**
- ☐ includes a **conclusion**

Clarity of Language
- ☐ uses **linking words** and **phrases**/or **temporal (time)** words
- ☐ uses **descriptive** words
- ☐ expresses ideas with **clarity**

</td>
<td>___/3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>

Knowledge of Language and Conventions
- ☐ demonstrates command of the conventions of standard English consistent with effectively edited writing
  - o **correct spelling, capitalization, and punctuation**
- ☐ few minor errors in **grammar and usage**
- ☐ **meaning is clear** throughout the response

</td>
<td>___/4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td style="text-align:right">TOTAL</td>
<td>___/7</td>
</tr>
</table>

* The reading dimension is not scored for elicited narrative stories.

Expanded Prose Constructed Response Rubric
Grade 3
Narrative Writing*

Writing		
Development ❐ **addresses the prompt** ❐ shows effective **development of the topic** by **using narrative elements** such as establishing a situation, organizing a logical event sequence, describing scenes, objects or people, developing characters personalities, and using dialogue as appropriate ❐ the development is largely **appropriate** to the **task and purpose**		___/3
Organization ❐ consistently demonstrates **purposeful and controlled organization** ❐ includes an **introduction** ❐ includes a **conclusion**		___/3
Clarity of Language ❐ uses **linking words** and **phrases** and/or **temporal (time)** words ❐ uses **descriptive** words ❐ expresses ideas with **clarity**		___/3
Knowledge of Language and Conventions ❐ demonstrates command of the conventions of standard English consistent with effectively edited writing o **correct spelling, capitalization, and punctuation** ❐ few minor errors in **grammar and usage** ❐ **meaning is clear** throughout the response		___/4
	TOTAL	___/13

* The reading dimension is not scored for elicited narrative stories.

Condensed Prose Constructed Response Rubric
Grade 2
Analytic Writing

Reading	**Comprehension of Key Ideas and Details** ❑ demonstrates comprehension of the **central ideas** expressed in the text ❑ **refers** to the text	__/2
Writing	**Development** ❑ **addresses the prompt** ❑ shows **development of the topic** by using reasoning, details, text-based evidence, and/or description ❑ the development is **appropriate** to the **task and purpose** **Organization** ❑ demonstrates **organization** 　○ includes paragraphs ❑ includes an **introduction** ❑ includes a **conclusion** **Clarity of Language** ❑ uses **linking words** and **phrases** and/or **temporal (time)** words ❑ uses **descriptive** words ❑ expresses ideas with **clarity**	__/3
	Knowledge of Language and Conventions ❑ demonstrates command of the conventions of standard English consistent with effectively edited writing 　○ **correct spelling, capitalization, and punctuation** ❑ few minor errors in **grammar and usage** ❑ **meaning is clear** throughout the response	__/4
	TOTAL	__/9

Expanded Prose Constructed Response Rubric
Grade 2
Analytic Writing

Reading	**Comprehension of Key Ideas and Details** ❑ demonstrates comprehension of the **central ideas** expressed in the text ❑ **refers** to the text	**___/2**
Writing	**Development** ❑ **addresses the prompt** ❑ shows **development of the topic** by using reasoning, details, text-based evidence, and/or description ❑ the development is **appropriate** to the **task and purpose**	**___/3**
	Organization ❑ demonstrates **organization** 　o includes paragraphs ❑ includes an **introduction** ❑ includes a **conclusion**	**___/3**
	Clarity of Language ❑ uses **linking words** and **phrases** and/or **temporal (time)** words ❑ uses **descriptive** words ❑ expresses ideas with **clarity**	**___/3**
	Knowledge of Language and Conventions ❑ demonstrates command of the conventions of standard English consistent with effectively edited writing 　o **correct spelling, capitalization, and punctuation** ❑ few minor errors in **grammar and usage** ❑ **meaning is clear** throughout the response	**___/4**
	TOTAL	**___/15**

Condensed Prose Constructed Response Rubric
Grade 2
Narrative Writing*

Writing	**Development**
	❑ **addresses the prompt**
	❑ uses **narrative elements** such as:
	    ○ describes event(s)
	    ○ describing scenes, objects or people,
	    ○ and using dialogue
	❑ the development is **appropriate** to the **task and purpose**
	
	Organization
	❑ demonstrates **organization**
	    ○ beginning, middle, and end
	❑ includes an **introduction**
	❑ includes a **conclusion**
	
	Clarity of Language
	❑ uses **linking words** and **phrases** and/or **temporal (time)** words
	❑ uses **descriptive** words
	❑ expresses ideas with **clarity**
		___/3

	Knowledge of Language and Conventions ❑ demonstrates command of the conventions of standard English consistent with effectively edited writing ○ **correct spelling, capitalization, and punctuation** ❑ few minor errors in **grammar and usage** ❑ **meaning is clear** throughout the response	**___/4**
	TOTAL	**___/7**

* The reading dimension is not scored for elicited narrative stories.

Expanded Prose Constructed Response Rubric
Grade 2
Narrative Writing*

<table>
<tr><td rowspan="4">Writing</td><td>Development
❐ addresses the prompt
❐ uses narrative elements such as:
    o   describes event(s)
    o   describing scenes, objects or people
    o   using dialogue
❐ the development is appropriate to the task and purpose</td><td>___/3</td></tr>
<tr><td>Organization
❐ demonstrates organization
    o   beginning, middle, and end
❐ includes an introduction
❐ includes a conclusion</td><td>___/3</td></tr>
<tr><td>Clarity of Language
❐ uses linking words and phrases and/or temporal (time) words
❐ uses descriptive words
❐ expresses ideas with clarity</td><td>___/3</td></tr>
<tr><td>Knowledge of Language and Conventions
❐ demonstrates command of the conventions of standard English consistent with effectively edited writing
    o   correct spelling, capitalization, and punctuation
❐ few minor errors in grammar and usage
❐ meaning is clear throughout the response</td><td>___/4</td></tr>
<tr><td></td><td style="text-align:right">TOTAL</td><td>___/13</td></tr>
</table>

* The reading dimension is not scored for elicited narrative stories.

Condensed Prose Constructed Response Rubric
Grade 1
Analytic Writing

<table>
<tr><td rowspan="1">Reading</td><td>Comprehension of Key Ideas and Details
☐ demonstrates comprehension of the central ideas expressed in the text
☐ Refers to the text</td><td>___/2</td></tr>
<tr><td rowspan="2">Writing</td><td>Development
☐ addresses the prompt
☐ shows development of the topic

Organization
☐ demonstrates some organization
☐ includes one or more paragraphs
Clarity of Language
☐ uses linking words and phrases and/or temporal (time) words
☐ uses descriptive words</td><td>___/3</td></tr>
<tr><td>Knowledge of Language and Conventions
☐ demonstrates correct spelling of sight words and invented spelling for "stretch" words
☐ uses capital letters and punctuation for sentences
☐ few minor errors in grammar and usage
☐ errors do not interfere with meaning</td><td>___/4</td></tr>
<tr><td></td><td style="text-align:right">TOTAL</td><td>___/9</td></tr>
</table>

Expanded *Prose Constructed Response Rubric*
Grade 1
Analytic Writing

Reading	**Comprehension of Key Ideas and Details** ❑ demonstrates comprehension of the **central ideas** expressed in the text ❑ **Refers** to the text	___/2
Writing	**Development** ❑ **addresses the prompt** ❑ shows **development of the topic**	___/2
	Organization ❑ demonstrates some **organization** ❑ includes one or more paragraphs	___/2
	Clarity of Language ❑ uses **linking words** and **phrases** and/or **temporal (time)** words ❑ uses **descriptive** words	___/2
	Knowledge of Language and Conventions ❑ demonstrates correct **spelling** of sight words and invented spelling for "stretch" words ❑ uses **capital** letters and **punctuation** for sentences ❑ few minor errors in **grammar and usage** ❑ errors do not interfere with meaning	___/4
	TOTAL	___/10

Condensed Prose Constructed Response Rubric
Grade 1
Narrative Writing*

<table>
<tr>
<td rowspan="2">Writing</td>
<td>
Development
☐ addresses the prompt
☐ uses narrative elements such as:
    ○ telling about event(s)
    ○ describing scenes, objects or people
    ○ dialogue
☐ the development is appropriate to the task and purpose
Organization
☐ demonstrates organization
    ○ beginning, middle, and end
Clarity of Language
☐ uses linking words and phrases
☐ uses temporal (time) words
☐ uses descriptive words
</td>
<td>___/3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>
Knowledge of Language and Conventions
☐ demonstrates correct spelling of sight words and invented spelling for "stretch" words
☐ uses capital letters and punctuation for sentences
☐ few minor errors in grammar and usage
☐ errors do not interfere with meaning
</td>
<td>___/4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td align="right">TOTAL</td>
<td>___/7</td>
</tr>
</table>

* The reading dimension is not scored for elicited narrative stories.

Expanded Prose Constructed Response Rubric
Grade 1
Narrative Writing*

Writing	**Development**
	❐ **addresses the prompt**
	❐ uses **narrative elements** such as:
	    ○ telling about event(s)
	    ○ describing scenes, objects or people
	    ○ dialogue
	❐ the development is **appropriate** to the **task and purpose**
		___/3

	Organization ❐ demonstrates **organization** ○ beginning, middle, and end	___/3
	Clarity of Language ❐ uses **linking words** and **phrases** ❐ uses temporal (**time**) words ❐ uses **descriptive** words	___/3
	Knowledge of Language and Conventions ❐ demonstrates correct **spelling** of sight words and invented spelling for "stretch" words ❐ uses **capital** letters and **punctuation** for sentences ❐ few minor errors in **grammar and usage** ❐ errors do not interfere with meaning	___/4
	TOTAL	___/13

* The reading dimension is not scored for elicited narrative stories.