



Prose Constructed Response Rubrics

Based on PARCC Rubrics revised July
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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	<p>Comprehension of Key Ideas and Details</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> demonstrates full comprehension of ideas stated explicitly and inferentially <i>correctly explains what the text says (right there and think about it)</i> <input type="checkbox"/> provides an accurate analysis <i>explains answer clearly</i> <input type="checkbox"/> supports the analysis with effective textual evidence <i>Uses words and phrases from the text that support answer</i> 	___/3
	<p>Development</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> addresses the prompt <i>answers the question(s)</i> <input type="checkbox"/> provides effective development of the topic that is consistently appropriate to the task <i>clearly explains the topic with reasons</i> <input type="checkbox"/> Uses clear reasoning and relevant, text-based evidence <i>Uses words and phrases from the text to support reasons</i> <hr/> <p>Organization</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> demonstrates effective coherence, clarity, and cohesion <i>organized well using a text structure with easy to follow paragraphs</i> <input type="checkbox"/> includes a strong introduction <input type="checkbox"/> includes a strong conclusion <hr/> <p>Clarity of Language</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> uses language effectively to clarify ideas <input type="checkbox"/> includes concrete words and phrases, sensory details, linking and transitional words <i>specific verbs, adjectives, or adverbs; words to connect ideas like ALSO, NEXT, FINALLY</i> <input type="checkbox"/> includes domain-specific vocabulary effectively to attend to the norms of the discipline <i>Science, Social Studies, or other words</i> 	___/3
Writing	<p>Knowledge of Language and Conventions</p> <p>Demonstrates full command of the conventions of standard English with few errors in:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> mechanics (spelling, punctuation, capitalization) <input type="checkbox"/> grammar rules (verb tense, other general rules) <input type="checkbox"/> usage (sounds natural and correct) 	___/3
	TOTAL	___/9

Condensed Prose Constructed Response Rubric
Grades 4-5
Analytic Writing

Reading	<p>Comprehension of Key Ideas and Details</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> demonstrates full comprehension of ideas stated explicitly and inferentially <input type="checkbox"/> provides an accurate analysis <input type="checkbox"/> supports the analysis with effective textual evidence 	___/3
	<p>Development</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> addresses the prompt <input type="checkbox"/> provides effective development of the topic that is consistently appropriate to the task <input type="checkbox"/> Uses clear reasoning and relevant, text-based evidence <p>Organization</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> demonstrates effective coherence, clarity, and cohesion <input type="checkbox"/> includes a strong introduction <input type="checkbox"/> includes a strong conclusion <p>Clarity of Language</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> uses language effectively to clarify ideas <input type="checkbox"/> includes concrete words and phrases, sensory details, linking and transitional words <input type="checkbox"/> includes domain-specific vocabulary effectively to attend to the norms of the discipline 	___/3
Writing	<p>Knowledge of Language and Conventions</p> <p>Demonstrates full command of the conventions of standard English with few errors in:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> mechanics (spelling, punctuation, capitalization) <input type="checkbox"/> grammar rules <input type="checkbox"/> usage 	___/3
	TOTAL	___/9

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

Reading	Comprehension of Key Ideas and Details <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> demonstrates full comprehension of ideas stated explicitly and inferentially <input type="checkbox"/> provides an accurate analysis <input type="checkbox"/> supports the analysis with effective textual evidence 	___/3
	Development <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> addresses the prompt <input type="checkbox"/> provides effective development of the topic that is consistently appropriate to the task <input type="checkbox"/> Uses clear reasoning and relevant, text-based evidence 	___/3
Writing	Organization <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> demonstrates effective coherence, clarity, and cohesion <input type="checkbox"/> includes a strong introduction <input type="checkbox"/> includes a strong conclusion 	___/3
	Clarity of Language <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> uses language effectively to clarify ideas <input type="checkbox"/> includes concrete words and phrases, sensory details, linking and transitional words <input type="checkbox"/> includes domain-specific vocabulary effectively to attend to the norms of the discipline 	___/3
	Knowledge of Language and Conventions Demonstrates full command of the conventions of standard English with few errors in: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> mechanics (spelling, punctuation, capitalization) <input type="checkbox"/> grammar rules <input type="checkbox"/> usage 	___/3
	TOTAL	___/15

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

Writing	<p>Development</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> addresses the prompt <input type="checkbox"/> is effectively developed of narrative elements such as appropriate <input type="checkbox"/> the development is consistently appropriate to the task <p>Organization</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> demonstrates effective coherence, clarity, and cohesion <input type="checkbox"/> includes a strong introduction <input type="checkbox"/> includes a strong conclusion <p>Clarity of Language</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> uses language effectively to clarify ideas <input type="checkbox"/> attends to the norms and conventions of the discipline with domain-specific vocabulary includes concrete words and phrases, sensory details, linking and transitional words 	___/3
	<p>Knowledge of Language and Conventions Demonstrates full command of the conventions of standard English with few errors in:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> mechanics (spelling, punctuation, capitalization) <input type="checkbox"/> grammar rules <input type="checkbox"/> usage 	___/3
	TOTAL	___/6

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

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

Writing	Development <input type="checkbox"/> addresses the prompt <input type="checkbox"/> is effectively developed of narrative elements such as appropriate <input type="checkbox"/> the development is consistently appropriate to the task	___/3
	Organization <input type="checkbox"/> demonstrates effective coherence, clarity, and cohesion <input type="checkbox"/> includes a strong introduction <input type="checkbox"/> includes a strong conclusion	___/3
	Clarity of Language <input type="checkbox"/> uses language effectively to clarify ideas <input type="checkbox"/> attends to the norms and conventions of the discipline with domain-specific vocabulary includes concrete words and phrases, sensory details, linking and transitional words	___/3
	Knowledge of Language and Conventions Demonstrates full command of the conventions of standard English with few errors in: <input type="checkbox"/> mechanics (spelling, punctuation, capitalization) <input type="checkbox"/> grammar rules <input type="checkbox"/> usage	___/3
	TOTAL	___/12

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

Condensed Prose Constructed Response Rubric

Grade 3

Analytic Writing

Reading	Comprehension of Key Ideas and Details <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Demonstrates full comprehension <input type="checkbox"/> Provides an accurate explanation, description, or comparison <input type="checkbox"/> References the texts explicitly 	___/3
	Development <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> addresses the prompt <input type="checkbox"/> provides effective development of the topic that is consistently appropriate to the task <input type="checkbox"/> uses clear reasoning and relevant, text-based evidence Organization <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> consistently demonstrates purposeful and controlled organization <input type="checkbox"/> includes an introduction <input type="checkbox"/> includes a conclusion Clarity of Language <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> uses language to express ideas with clarity <input type="checkbox"/> uses linking words and phrases <input type="checkbox"/> uses descriptive words 	___/3
Writing	Knowledge of Language and Conventions Demonstrates full command of the conventions of standard English with few errors in: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> mechanics (spelling, punctuation, capitalization) <input type="checkbox"/> grammar rules <input type="checkbox"/> usage 	___/3
	TOTAL	___/9

***Expanded Prose Constructed Response Rubric
Grade 3
Analytic Writing***

Reading	Comprehension of Key Ideas and Details <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Demonstrates full comprehension <input type="checkbox"/> Provides an accurate explanation, description, or comparison <input type="checkbox"/> References the texts explicitly 	___/3
	Development <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> addresses the prompt <input type="checkbox"/> provides effective development of the topic that is consistently appropriate to the task <input type="checkbox"/> uses clear reasoning and relevant, text-based evidence 	___/3
Writing	Organization <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> consistently demonstrates purposeful and controlled organization <input type="checkbox"/> includes an introduction <input type="checkbox"/> includes a conclusion 	___/3
	Clarity of Language <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> uses language to express ideas with clarity <input type="checkbox"/> uses linking words and phrases <input type="checkbox"/> uses descriptive words 	___/3
	Knowledge of Language and Conventions Demonstrates full command of the conventions of standard English with few errors in: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> mechanics (spelling, punctuation, capitalization) <input type="checkbox"/> grammar rules <input type="checkbox"/> usage 	___/3
TOTAL		___/15

Condensed Prose Constructed Response Rubric
Grade 3
Narrative Writing*

Writing	<p>Development</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> is effectively developed <input type="checkbox"/> includes narrative elements (characters, setting, problem solution, dialogue, etc.) <input type="checkbox"/> is consistently appropriate to the task <p>Organization</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> consistently demonstrates purposeful and controlled organization <input type="checkbox"/> includes an introduction <input type="checkbox"/> includes a conclusion <p>Clarity of Language</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> uses language to express ideas with clarity <input type="checkbox"/> uses linking words and phrases <input type="checkbox"/> uses descriptive words 	___/3
	<p>Knowledge of Language and Conventions</p> <p>Demonstrates full command of the conventions of standard English with few errors in:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> mechanics (spelling, punctuation, capitalization) <input type="checkbox"/> grammar rules <input type="checkbox"/> usage 	___/3
	TOTAL	___/6

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

***Expanded Prose Constructed Response Rubric
Grade 3
Narrative Writing****

Writing	Development <input type="checkbox"/> is effectively developed <input type="checkbox"/> includes narrative elements (characters, setting, problem solution, dialogue, etc.) <input type="checkbox"/> is consistently appropriate to the task	___/3
	Organization <input type="checkbox"/> consistently demonstrates purposeful and controlled organization <input type="checkbox"/> includes an introduction <input type="checkbox"/> includes a conclusion	___/3
	Clarity of Language <input type="checkbox"/> uses language to express ideas with clarity <input type="checkbox"/> uses linking words and phrases <input type="checkbox"/> uses descriptive words	___/3
	Knowledge of Language and Conventions Demonstrates full command of the conventions of standard English with few errors in: <input type="checkbox"/> mechanics (spelling, punctuation, capitalization) <input type="checkbox"/> grammar rules <input type="checkbox"/> usage	___/3
	TOTAL	___/12

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

Condensed Prose Constructed Response Rubric

Grade 2

Analytic Writing

Reading	<p>Comprehension of Key Ideas and Details</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> demonstrates comprehension of the central ideas expressed in the text <input type="checkbox"/> refers to the text 	___/2
Writing	<p>Development</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> addresses the prompt <input type="checkbox"/> shows development of the topic by using reasoning, details, text-based evidence, and/or description <input type="checkbox"/> the development is appropriate to the task and purpose 	___/3
	<p>Organization</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> demonstrates organization <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ includes paragraphs <input type="checkbox"/> includes an introduction <input type="checkbox"/> includes a conclusion 	
	<p>Clarity of Language</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> uses linking words and phrases and/or temporal (time) words <input type="checkbox"/> uses descriptive words <input type="checkbox"/> expresses ideas with clarity 	
	<p>Knowledge of Language and Conventions</p> <p>Demonstrates full command of the conventions of standard English with few errors in:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> mechanics (spelling, punctuation, capitalization) <input type="checkbox"/> grammar rules <input type="checkbox"/> usage 	___/4
	TOTAL	___/8

Expanded Prose Constructed Response Rubric
Grade 2
Analytic Writing

Reading	Comprehension of Key Ideas and Details <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> demonstrates comprehension of the central ideas expressed in the text <input type="checkbox"/> refers to the text 	___/2
	Development <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> addresses the prompt <input type="checkbox"/> shows development of the topic by using reasoning, details, text-based evidence, and/or description <input type="checkbox"/> the development is appropriate to the task and purpose 	___/3
Writing	Organization <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> demonstrates organization <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ includes paragraphs <input type="checkbox"/> includes an introduction <input type="checkbox"/> includes a conclusion 	___/3
	Clarity of Language <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> uses linking words and phrases and/or temporal (time) words <input type="checkbox"/> uses descriptive words <input type="checkbox"/> expresses ideas with clarity 	___/3
	Knowledge of Language and Conventions Demonstrates full command of the conventions of standard English with few errors in: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> mechanics (spelling, punctuation, capitalization) <input type="checkbox"/> grammar rules <input type="checkbox"/> usage 	___/3
	TOTAL	___/14

Condensed Prose Constructed Response Rubric
Grade 2
Narrative Writing*

Writing	<p>Development</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> is effectively developed <input type="checkbox"/> uses narrative elements (characters, setting, problem solution, dialogue, etc.) <input type="checkbox"/> is consistently appropriate to the task 	___/3
	<p>Organization</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> demonstrates organization <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ beginning, middle, and end <input type="checkbox"/> includes an introduction <input type="checkbox"/> includes a conclusion 	
	<p>Clarity of Language</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> uses language to express ideas with clarity <input type="checkbox"/> uses linking words and phrases <input type="checkbox"/> uses descriptive words 	
	<p>Knowledge of Language and Conventions Demonstrates full command of the conventions of standard English with few errors in:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> mechanics (spelling, punctuation, capitalization) <input type="checkbox"/> grammar rules <input type="checkbox"/> usage 	___/3
	TOTAL	___/6

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

***Expanded Prose Constructed Response Rubric
Grade 2
Narrative Writing****

Writing	<p>Development</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> is effectively developed <input type="checkbox"/> uses narrative elements (characters, setting, problem solution, dialogue, etc.) <input type="checkbox"/> is consistently appropriate to the task 	___/3
	<p>Organization</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> demonstrates organization <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ beginning, middle, and end <input type="checkbox"/> includes an introduction <input type="checkbox"/> includes a conclusion 	___/3
	<p>Clarity of Language</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> uses language to express ideas with clarity <input type="checkbox"/> uses linking words and phrases <input type="checkbox"/> uses descriptive words 	___/3
	<p>Knowledge of Language and Conventions</p> <p>Demonstrates full command of the conventions of standard English with few errors in:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> mechanics (spelling, punctuation, capitalization) <input type="checkbox"/> grammar rules <input type="checkbox"/> usage 	___/3
	TOTAL	___/12

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

Condensed Prose Constructed Response Rubric

Grade 1

Analytic Writing

Reading	<p>Comprehension of Key Ideas and Details</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> demonstrates comprehension of the central ideas expressed in the text <input type="checkbox"/> Refers to the text 	___/2
Writing	<p>Development</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> addresses the prompt <input type="checkbox"/> shows development of the topic <p>Organization</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> demonstrates some organization <input type="checkbox"/> includes one or more paragraphs <p>Clarity of Language</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> uses linking words and phrases and/or temporal (time) words <input type="checkbox"/> uses descriptive words 	___/3
	<p>Knowledge of Language and Conventions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> demonstrates correct spelling of sight words and invented spelling for “stretch” words <input type="checkbox"/> uses capital letters and punctuation for sentences <input type="checkbox"/> few minor errors in grammar and usage that do not interfere with meaning 	___/3
TOTAL		___/8

Expanded Prose Constructed Response Rubric
Grade 1
Analytic Writing

Reading	Comprehension of Key Ideas and Details <input type="checkbox"/> demonstrates comprehension of the central ideas expressed in the text <input type="checkbox"/> Refers to the text	___/2
	Development <input type="checkbox"/> addresses the prompt <input type="checkbox"/> shows development of the topic	___/2
Writing	Organization <input type="checkbox"/> demonstrates some organization <input type="checkbox"/> includes one or more paragraphs	___/2
	Clarity of Language <input type="checkbox"/> uses linking words and phrases and/or temporal (time) words <input type="checkbox"/> uses descriptive words	___/2
	Knowledge of Language and Conventions <input type="checkbox"/> demonstrates correct spelling of sight words and invented spelling for “stretch” words <input type="checkbox"/> uses capital letters and punctuation for sentences <input type="checkbox"/> few minor errors in grammar and usage that do not interfere with meaning	___/3
	TOTAL	___/9

Condensed Prose Constructed Response Rubric
Grade 1
Narrative Writing*

Writing	<p>Development</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> uses narrative elements (characters, setting, problem solution, dialogue, etc.) <p>Organization</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> demonstrates organization <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o beginning, middle, and end <p>Clarity of Language</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> uses linking words and phrases <input type="checkbox"/> uses descriptive words 	___/3
	<p>Knowledge of Language and Conventions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> demonstrates correct spelling of sight words and invented spelling for “stretch” words <input type="checkbox"/> uses capital letters and punctuation for sentences <input type="checkbox"/> few minor errors in grammar and usage that do not interfere with meaning 	___/3
	TOTAL	___/6

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

***Expanded Prose Constructed Response Rubric
Grade 1
Narrative Writing****

Writing	Development <input type="checkbox"/> uses narrative elements (characters, setting, problem solution, dialogue, etc.)	___/3
	Organization <input type="checkbox"/> demonstrates organization <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ beginning, middle, and end 	___/3
	Clarity of Language <input type="checkbox"/> uses linking words and phrases <input type="checkbox"/> uses descriptive words	___/3
	Knowledge of Language and Conventions <input type="checkbox"/> demonstrates correct spelling of sight words and invented spelling for “stretch” words <input type="checkbox"/> uses capital letters and punctuation for sentences <input type="checkbox"/> few minor errors in grammar and usage that do not interfere with meaning	___/3
	TOTAL	___/12

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