



## Writing Assessment Screening Instructions for Students with Interrupted/Inconsistent Formal Education (SIFE)

### Writing Assessment Screening Instructions

The purpose of this home or primary language writing assessment is to quickly identify students' basic writing skills and to screen potential Students with Interrupted/Inconsistent Formal Education (SIFE). This test can be administered in a group and students should be given a maximum of 15 minutes to complete their writing.

### Administration Instructions:

Prior to beginning the assessment, if you do not know already, identify the home or primary language of the student. The assessment is provided in the following languages in addition to English:

- Spanish
- Arabic
- Bengali
- Haitian Creole
- Chinese
- Urdu
- Maay Maay
- Sgaw Karen

1. If a student is able to write in a language that is not listed above, the student may write in that language using the English prompt (with home or primary language oral instructions). If a student has no written language, they should be encouraged to draw their response using the 'drawn response' prompt. A drawn response will not be able to be graded but it will allow the student to actively participate.
2. The instructor may fill in the basic student details fields (name, date of arrival, admit date etc.) Any oral instructions should be given in the student's home or primary language.
3. Tell the students they will write a story in their home or primary language. Tell them this is not a test, but we would like to see them do the best that they can, writing as much as possible.
4. You may answer basic questions about the task, but refrain from explaining, suggesting ideas, or otherwise explicitly assisting the student.
5. Students should not use a dictionary or solicit help from teachers or other students to complete their writing.
6. Students should be encouraged to write as much as possible and be provided with additional paper if needed.

Name:	Age:
Date:	Home Language:
Date Arrived in USA:	Home Country:

Title of your writing: \_\_\_\_\_

**Sample prompt**

For this activity, write about your favorite holiday/celebration in your home country. Include/think about:

- all details about the holiday/celebration
- what makes the holiday/celebration enjoyable
- any memories you may have about the holiday/celebration

Use the following space to write one or two paragraphs about your favorite holiday:

Remember to include in your writing:

- The name of the holiday/celebration people enjoy in your country
- What people do for the holiday/celebration
- What kind of food people eat
- Why the holiday/celebration is your favorite

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