



Acquire: Proficiency Examples

Training Resource for Veteran Teachers

This document includes proficiency descriptions and evidence examples and descriptions in English. You may want to use these with your students to help them understand what characteristics distinguish each level.

Proficiency Descriptions

NOVICE

- Produce and understand words, phrases, memorized expressions, and short, simple sentences
- Rely on cues from background knowledge, context, and visual information
- Memorize common, familiar vocabulary words and grammar structure patterns.
- Improve fluency by imitating teachers and other proficient speakers of the language

INTERMEDIATE

- Produce and understand more complex sentences, paragraphs and longer conversations
- Understand the main idea and details from materials in mainstream media
- Experiment with the language more and express thoughts with more elaboration.
- Able to communicate on a wide variety of topics beyond simple daily life

ADVANCED

- Produce and understand paragraph-length language
 - Understand basic and complex information that is autobiographical and related to topics of interest
 - Can deal with social situations with unexpected complications
 - Can communicate effectively in all major timeframes (past, present, and future)
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Writing Exemplars

Novice Writing Evidence Exemplar

Novice-Mid: *I can write lists that help me in my day-to-day life.*

This picture shows a packing list for a camping trip and uses everyday vocabulary.



Camping Trip	
Title	
Jeans	Sleeping bag
T-shirts	Pillow
Sweatshirts	Towel
Pajamas	Toothbrush
Bathing suit	Soap
Socks	Sunscreen
Underwear	Lotion
Sandals	Books
Sneakers	Flashlight

Intermediate Writing Evidence Exemplar

Intermediate-Low: *I can express my opinion on familiar topics using a series of sentences with some details.*

This student wrote their opinion about food, using complete sentences and a variety of vocabulary words.

I don't like fish. It has a very strong flavor and smells a lot. I can sometimes eat tuna but other fish don't taste good at all. Sushi is horrible because the fish is raw. I can eat shrimp and crab but the taste of fish doesn't appeal to me. The smell of fish in the supermarket makes me sick and I can smell it from far away. I don't think I could ever be a fisherman.

Advanced Writing Evidence Exemplar

Advanced-Low: *I can write a blog post describing the highlights of a recent trip.*

The student wrote paragraph-length and connected thoughts about a variety of ideas. Her ideas are well-organized and in various time frames

Philadelphia: Brotherly Love and History Nerds

Posted 5/4/18 01:00

I just spent the weekend in Philadelphia, and I have been bitten by Brotherly Love! Though it might sound weird to describe it this way, everything was delicious; the food and the sites! I really loved it.

The Food

Everything I ate in Philadelphia was delicious...except Philly Cheesesteaks. I tried quite a few, and they were just bland. I did learn that melty cheese is better than harder cheese, but it hardly made a difference. However, everything else was FABULOUS. We had fajitas at El Vez, and they really made the best salsa I have ever tasted. It was a perfect pairing of savory and spicy. I also highly recommend any of the local diners for breakfast. They serve so much delicious food, that you will only need to buy one meal to share!

The Sites

As soon as I checked into my hotel, I was ready to eat. I met up with friend in the hotel lobby, and as we were walking to find a restaurant, we happened upon a bus tour. Honestly, it was the best \$30 I ever spent in my life. As we rode on the bus, we got to see a ton of historical sites (The Liberty Bell, Independence Hall, and the location of the first presidential residence in the United States, and even the steps where Rocky trained). We also got to learn a TON about Philly. Did you know, for example, that Al Capone was once imprisoned in Philly? Things were a bit corrupt, so he had quite the luxury cell, adorned with oil paintings and other accoutrements. His neighbors weren't so lucky.

All in all, I highly recommend taking a trip to Philadelphia! I wish I had more time, so try taking more than a weekend. I will definitely go back soon, and I will make sure to tour that prison that Al Capone was imprisoned in.

-Susana López