**Editable: First Writing Assessment - gauge where to begin with classes**

I use this checklist as I read those first writing assignments. This checklist guides me with creating the expectations and assignments. I keep a copy of this next to me as I read students’ first writing - often a paragraph. These are my expectations for the end of the year. I make notes as needed. Please edit for your needs!

Expectations/Included:

Topic sentence

Complete sentences

Transitions

Punctuation - correct

Focused ideas

Strong words

Established voice

Clear, rhythmic flow

Words not confused

Concluding sentence

**Editable: Fix Grammar Errors in Writing**

NOTE: I ask students to edit their papers with these guidelines. Depending on needs, I might add or subtract these ideas. Also, feel free to delete this note before distributing to students..

Directions: *Let’s apply those grammar lessons!*

* Find “there are” or “there is” in your writing. Restructure the sentence and eliminate those constructions.
* Identify weak nouns and replace them! Possibilities include: stuff, things
* Identify weak verbs and replace them! Possibilities include: got, went, had, can
* Identify weak adjectives and replace them! Possibilities include: much, good, bad, ok, little
* Identify an abundance of weak adverbs and replace them! Possibilities include: too, very, much, quite, really

Directions: *Let’s take this a step more! Improve!*

* Circle your linking verbs. Are these the majority of your verbs? Could you add some DYNAMITE verbs instead?
* Can you find a gerund, participial, and infinitive phrase? Have you used a variety of phrases (perhaps introductory phrases) in your writing?
* Do you have a variety of sentences? If you have many simple sentences, combine them into a compound sentence. If you need to show a relationship, try a complex sentence.

What writing activities do you need?

[The complete writing unit](https://www.teacherspayteachers.com/Product/Writing-Bundle-for-Freshmen-and-Sophomores-3285804)

[Common spelling errors](https://www.teacherspayteachers.com/Product/Common-Spelling-Errors-Task-Cards-Pre-test-Exit-Ticket-1726418)

[Common writing errors](https://www.teacherspayteachers.com/Product/Improve-Student-Writing-Overused-Words-Poor-Sentence-Structure-and-More-1248009)

[Eliminate linking verbs](https://www.teacherspayteachers.com/Product/Eliminate-Linking-Verbs-from-Secondary-Student-Writing-1421614)

[Complete sentences](https://www.teacherspayteachers.com/Product/Improve-Writing-Comma-Splices-Fragments-Run-on-Sentences-Wordiness-and-More-3254822)