

How to use the Writing Criterion Scale

Assessing a piece of writing using the Writing Criterion Scale couldn't be simpler:

Step 1: Read the piece carefully and then use a general judgement to choose a Grade to assess against. For example, ask yourself: *Is this a Grade 3 piece?* If the answer is 'no' choose from a higher or lower grade; if the answer is 'maybe' continue the assessment.

Step 2: Read the piece carefully again and then quickly work through each of the criteria using the following marks to indicate your judgement:

✓ – there is strong evidence here that the child can do this

● – there is some evidence here that the child can do this

X – there is no evidence here that the child can do this

Step 3: Count up the ticks, calculate the score, then use the score to assign a Grade; if the judgement is in the 'A' band assess again for the next Grade up

Step 4: Use criteria identified with a ● to inform immediate next steps for the child with any 'pre-requisite' criteria being urgent targets.

More detailed information about the assessment approach that underpins *Big Writing* is provided by Andrell Education Ltd as part of their training, or can be found in *Big Writing: Raising Writing Standards* by Ros Wilson (OUP, 2012).

