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**Level 1 (High Beginning)**

Students communicate meaning in a basic paragraph by:
- displaying paragraph and rhetorical skills of organization and development
- using simple and compound sentences
- using language at high-beginning level

**Level 2 (Low Intermediate)**

Students communicate meaning in a well-constructed paragraph by:
- including a clear topic sentence
- including supporting details
- including appropriate features for the genre (transitions, formatting, etc.)
- using simple, compound and complex sentences
- using language at a low-intermediate level

**Level 3 (Intermediate)**

Students write a coherent essay/multi-paragraph text that:
- follows the appropriate rhetorical mode, e.g., comparison-contrast, cause-effect, classification, etc.
- follows the conventions of academic writing
- uses outside sources
- uses language at an intermediate level

**Level 4 (High Intermediate-Advanced)**

Students display academic writing skills by showing in their writing:
- a clear focus and overall organization typical of various academic genres
- information that has been paraphrased/summarized from multiple sources
- use of language at an advanced level (syntax, grammar, vocabulary) that does not interfere with comprehensibility.

Students display academic research skills by showing in their writing that they:
- gather relevant information using academic sources
- acknowledge others’ ideas through in-text citations and reference lists