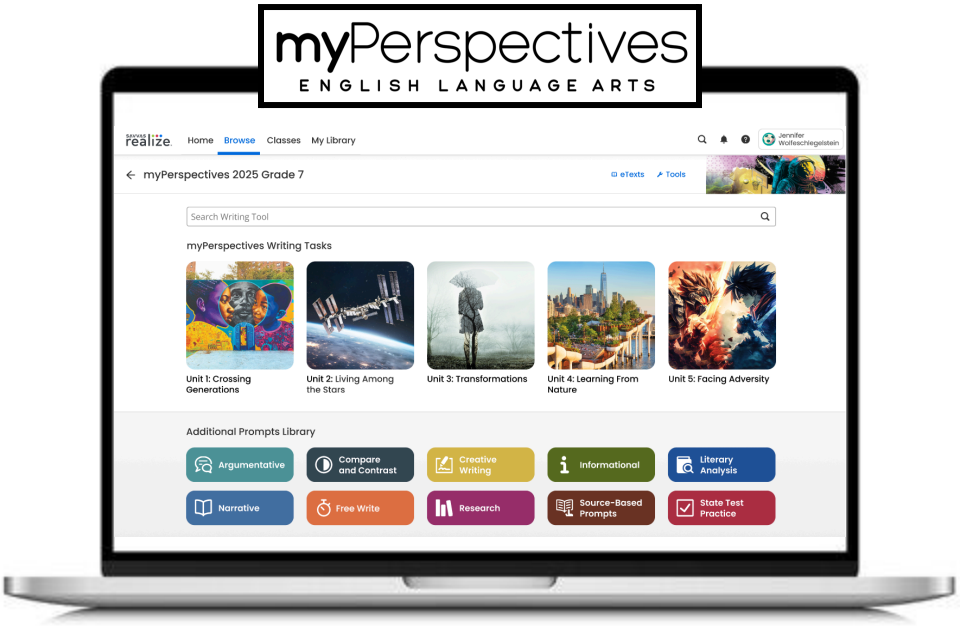
SAVVYwriter by SAVVAS



Frequently Asked Questions

To support your understanding of the questions and responses in this FAQ, begin with the terminology chart below. It defines key terms and concepts referenced throughout the document.

Term	Definition	Purpose
Machine Learning Model	These are specialized algorithms trained on collections of teacher-scored student writing. The models recognize key features and patterns in order to provide consistent, objective essay evaluations aligned with fixed rubrics.	Unlike generative AI or large language models (LLM), machine learning models ensure consistent, objective evaluations.
Scoring Criteria / Rubric	This term refers to specific writing skills or elements identified and considered in the evaluation and scoring of student writing. The set of scoring criteria varies by grade level and writing mode, and each rubric was developed with a team of educators.	To objectively measure and evaluate student writing against specific educational standards and communicate proficiency and skill development. **Detailed rubrics with descriptions for every scoring criterion will be available mid October 2026.**
Scoring Categories	There are 3 main scoring categories in SavvyWriter: Purpose & Organization, Development of Ideas, and Language & Conventions. Each category includes multiple scoring criteria (writing skills) and each criterion's weight is proportional to the number of criteria within that category.	These categories help organize scoring criteria into clear collective expectations. You will see these categories in SavvyWriter on the side panel when students write and submit their essays for feedback.
Essay Score	This is the numerical score of 1-4 out of a total of 4 given to an essay. The overall score is the average of the rubric categories, each of which is a collective evaluation of scoring criteria within them.	AI-powered scores can be turned on or off, can be released to students automatically or after approval, and can be edited by teachers and administrators.
Feedback	This is expert-written content that explains how students performed and guides them in revising their writing. It is accompanied by detailed guides for each scoring criterion to help students strengthen writing skills as they revise.	Students see three types of feedback: 1) a summary of what they did well and what needs attention; 2) beginning, developing, and mastering icons for each scoring criterion; and 3) brief revision tips with highlights for each scoring criterion.

A. How was the SavvyWriter AI-powered scoring model built? Savvas has developed proprietary machine learning models trained on thousands of authentic student writings. These models were developed alongside experienced teachers and writing experts. The *myPerspectives* Product team worked with a team of teachers to develop rubrics defining what success looks like for 21 different writing skills, carefully calibrated for each grade level. The AI models are designed to accurately align with those rubrics, categorizing student performance as beginning, developing, or mastering for each scoring criteria.

Note that the essays are ONLY looked at through Savvas' proprietary model and student data is NOT shared beyond the model. Since 2015, the team behind SavvyWriter has

leveraged AI to assess student writing and provide feedback on tens of millions of student-written responses, continuously refining the technology. This ongoing research and development effort has also been backed by the National Science Foundation.

B. **How does SavvyWriter know what feedback to provide?** SavvyWriter benefits from having been trained on tens of thousands of authentic student essays. The Savvas team collaborated extensively with experienced teachers and writing experts for thousands of hours, enabling their expertise to directly shape and train Savvas' proprietary AI models to accurately recognize and assess quality writing at each grade level.

C. **How are essays scored?** Essays are scored using a 4-point mastery-based scale across three main scoring categories: Development of Ideas, Purpose & Organization, and Language & Conventions. This 4-level scale is a widely recognized framework that directly reflects levels of proficiency. Each of the three categories consider multiple weighted criteria, and the category scores remain consistent on this 4-point scale. The overall essay score is calculated by **averaging** the three category scores to maintain the same 4-level scale. This scoring method is utilized because it supports mastery grading goals and offers clear, actionable feedback. User feedback confirms that both educators and students find a score out of 4 to be straightforward and transparent, with a 4/4 signifying mastery across all essential writing categories. Furthermore, the 4-point scale is simple to convert to most traditional grading methods (e.g., percentages, A-F letter grades) because it directly aligns with the widely recognized 4.0 Grade Point Average (GPA) system, ensuring easy integration into any existing school-wide gradebook system.

D. **How does SavvyWriter's scoring compare to the way teachers grade writing?** SavvyWriter's scoring closely mirrors how teachers grade essays. Teachers collaborated with the Savvas team to create a master rubric, defining what "beginning," "developing," and "mastering" look like for each skill at each grade level. Just as teachers match student essays to criteria based on experience and assignment expectations, SavvyWriter's AI is trained to recognize those same characteristics and apply the rubric consistently.

E. **UPDATED! Are there different sets of scoring criteria/rubrics for each mode of writing?** Yes, below are the categories of scoring criteria for each writing mode. Note: Detailed rubrics, including specific descriptions for every scoring criterion under each writing mode and grade level, will be available in Realize mid October 2026.
    - **Argumentative**
        - **Development of Ideas**: Transitions, Supporting Claims, Evidence, Reasoning
        - **Purpose & Organization**: Formatting, Opener, Main Claim, Topic Sentences, Concluding Summary
        - **Language & Conventions**: Sentence Structure, Capitalization, Punctuation, Spelling, Grammar, Vocabulary
    - **Informational**
        - **Development of Ideas**: Transitions, Supporting Points, Evidence, Reasoning

- **Purpose & Organization**: Formatting, Opener, Thesis, Topic Sentences, Concluding Summary
- **Language & Conventions**: Sentence Structure, Capitalization, Punctuation, Spelling, Grammar, Vocabulary

- **Narrative**
  - **Development of Ideas**: Transitions, Events, Descriptions
  - **Purpose & Organization**: Formatting, Opener, Topic Focus, Event Sequence, Concluding Reflection
  - **Language & Conventions**: Sentence Structure, Capitalization, Punctuation, Spelling, Grammar, Vocabulary

F. NEW! **Can teachers customize the scoring criteria?** Yes, teachers can customize scoring criteria weights to adjust how each criterion impacts the overall score. Teachers can choose between High, Default, or Low weights, or set a criterion to "Unscored" to provide feedback without affecting the total grade. Alternatively, selecting "Remove" completely excludes the criterion and its feedback from the student view and all score calculations. These settings can be saved to automatically populate on future assignments with the same rubric.

G. **Can teachers turn off the AI? If yes, how is the scoring different?** Yes, there are settings that allow teachers to completely turn off AI-powered scoring and feedback (revision suggestions and highlights). Options allow teachers to disable AI-power feedback but keep scoring enabled, and they can also choose whether to send AI-powered scores to students automatically or only after approving the score. Even with AI scoring and feedback disabled, the product still supports students with helpful guidance and examples for each writing skill.

H. **Can teachers create their own prompts?** Yes, teachers can create custom writing prompts and specify the grade level and writing mode. This feature is available in Realize under **My Library > Write an Essay Prompt**. Custom prompts use SavvyWriter's full AI-powered feedback and scoring capabilities and will be scored exactly the same way as existing prompts. It is important to select the correct writing mode and grade level to ensure accurate scoring.

