

Grades 9–12 WIDA Proficiency Level Descriptors for the Interpretive Communication Mode (Listening, Reading, and Viewing)

Toward the end of each proficiency level, when scaffolded appropriately, multilingual learners will...

Criteria	End of Level 1	End of Level 2	End of Level 3	End of Level 4	End of Level 5	Level 6
DISCOURSE Organization of language	Understand how coherent texts (spoken, written, multimodal) are created...					
	to meet a purpose (to inform, narrate, entertain) in a series of topic-related connected sentences	to meet a purpose through generic (not genre-specific) organization (introduction, body, conclusion)	to meet a purpose through specific organization (orientation and explanation sequence)	to meet a purpose through organizational patterns characteristic of the genre (claim, evidence, reasoning) that link ideas, events, and reasons across text	to meet a purpose reflective of genre and discipline, linking ideas, events, and reasons in a variety of ways (causes and effects, factors and outcomes, events and consequences)	According to authors' strategic use of generic structure (combining different genres to meet their social purpose) for particular effects and for a variety of audiences
DISCOURSE Cohesion of language	Understand how ideas are connected across a whole text through...					
	multiple cohesive devices (synonyms, antonyms)	a variety of cohesive devices that connect larger meaningful chunks of text including (class/subclass, whole/part)	a wide variety of cohesive devices that connect ideas throughout a text (whole/part, substitution/omission)	cohesive devices and common strategies that connect ideas throughout a text (given/new)	various types of cohesive devices and strategies that connect ideas throughout a text	authors' strategic and creative ways to connect units of meaning throughout a whole text
DISCOURSE Density of language	Understand how ideas are elaborated or condensed through...					
	expanded noun groups with prepositional phrases (the chemical element with the symbol H)	expanded noun groups with embedded clauses (chemical element that has these physical properties)	expanded noun groups with a variety of embedded clauses (chemical element with the symbol Na and an atomic number 11 that ...)	expanded noun groups with embedded clauses and compacted noun groups (nominalization)	a variety of noun groups expanded with pre- and post- modifiers (the chemical element with the symbol H and atomic number 1)	authors' strategic use of noun groups and nominalization to elaborate and condense ideas characteristic of various genres and content areas

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SENTENCE Grammatical complexity	multiple related simple sentences (<i>All people have needs and wants. This is called demand.</i>)	simple or compound sentences with familiar ways of combining clauses (using coordinating conjunction: <i>All people have needs and wants and it's called demand.</i>)	compound sentences with frequently used ways of combining clauses (coordinating conjunctions: <i>All people have needs and wants but there are only limited...</i>)	compound and complex sentences with a variety of ways of combining clauses addressing genre, audience, and content area (Whenever there is an increased demand, the prices go up.)	a wide variety of sentence types that show various increasingly complex relationships (condition, cause, concession, contrast) addressing genre, audience, and content area (Despite the obvious problems with equity, some people...)	authors' strategic use of sentences that combine clauses reflecting increasingly complex relationships addressing genre, audience, and content area (<i>Interest rates are controlled by the Federal Reserve Bank, although some would argue...</i>) with awareness of how various sentences create different effects
	Understand how meanings are extended or enhanced through...					
WORD, PHRASE Precision of language	a growing number of words and phrases in a variety of contexts (<i>sit tight for the announcements, in this novel</i>)	an expanding number of words and phrases including idioms and collocations (<i>to make a long story short</i>)	a variety of words and phrases such as adverbials of time, manner, and place; verb types; and abstract nouns (<i>within seconds</i>)	a wide variety of words, phrases, and expressions with multiple meanings across content areas (<i>division of power versus long division</i>)	strategic use of various words, phrases, and expressions with shades of meaning across content areas (<i>tumultuous and catastrophic events</i>)	authors' flexible and strategic use of words and phrases across a variety of contexts and content areas (<i>stares, hesitates, agonizes and finally...</i>)
	Understand how precise meanings are created through everyday, cross-disciplinary, and technical language through...					

Grades 9-12 WIDA Proficiency Level Descriptors for the Expressive Communication Mode (Speaking, Writing, and Representing)

Toward the end of each proficiency level, when scaffolded appropriately, multilingual learners will...

Criteria	End of Level 1	End of Level 2	End of Level 3	End of Level 4	End of Level 5	Level 6
DISCOURSE Organization of language	short text that conveys intended purpose using predictable organization (paragraph openers: <i>First... Finally, In November, Plant cells have...</i>)	expanding text that conveys intended purpose using generic (not genre-specific) organization (introduction, body, conclusion) with some paragraph openers	text that conveys intended purpose using genre-specific organizational patterns (statement of position, arguments, call to action) with a variety of paragraph openers	text that conveys intended purpose using genre-specific organizational patterns (claims and counterclaims or rebuttals) with strategic ways of signaling relationships between paragraphs and throughout a text	text that conveys intended purpose using genre-specific organizational patterns with a wide range of ways to signal relationships throughout the text	elaborated text that conveys authors' intended and strategic purpose, including flexibility in combining multiple genres for a variety of audiences and effects.
	Create coherent texts (spoken, written, multimodal) using...					
DISCOURSE Cohesion of language	a growing number of cohesive devices (demonstratives, repetition)	an expanding number of cohesive devices (given/new, whole/part, class/subclass)	a flexible number of cohesive devices (ellipsis, substitution/omission)	a variety of cohesive devices used in genre- and discipline-specific ways	a wide variety of cohesive devices used in genre- and discipline-specific ways	a flexible and strategic use of cohesive devices
	Connect ideas across a whole text through...					
DISCOURSE Density of language	some types of elaboration (demonstratives: <i>these five rules</i>)	an expanding number of types of elaboration (adding classifiers: <i>Roman empire</i>)	a variety of types of elaboration (adding in embedded clauses after the noun: <i>ancient kingdoms which were buried by ash</i>)	a wide variety of types of elaboration and some ways to condense ideas that includes embedded clauses and condensed noun groups through nominalization	a flexible range of types of elaboration and a growing number of ways to condense ideas	multiple and strategic use of language features to elaborate and condense ideas
	Elaborate or condense ideas through...					

Criteria	End of Level 1	End of Level 2	End of Level 3	End of Level 4	End of Level 5	Level 6
SENTENCE Grammatical complexity	simple sentences with emerging use of clauses (<i>Bolivia is in South America. It's a home to...</i>)	simple or compound sentences with familiar ways of combining clauses with some coordinating conjunctions (<i>Bolivia is in South America and it's a home to...</i>)	compound sentences with frequently used ways of combining clauses that use a broad range of techniques to connect ideas (<i>Democracy was established in the 1980s, yet, leaders...</i>)	compound and complex sentences with a variety of ways of combining clauses in characteristic of the genre and content area (with a range of techniques to extend, or shorten sentences: Although the northern part of...)	a wide variety of sentence types that show complex clause relationships (condition, cause, concession, contrast) through addressing genre, audience, and content area (Despite the country's suffering...)	strategic use of multiple techniques and strategies for creating increasingly complex clause relationships that address genre, audience, and content area (Even though Spanish is the official language, several indigenous languages are spoken.)
	WORD, PHRASE Precision of language	a growing repertoire of words and phrases with growing precision (<i>mitosis, symbiotic relationships</i>)	an expanding repertoire of words and phrases such as idioms and collocations with expanding precision (<i>miss the boat</i>)	a flexible repertoire of words and phrases such as adverbials of time, manner, and place; verb types; and abstract nouns with consistent precision (<i>by exploring cultures, later that day</i>)	a variety of words and phrases, including evaluation and obligation, with precision (<i>we shall overcome</i>)	a wide variety of words and phrases with precision (<i>the dictator ruled with terror</i>) according to the genre, purpose, and discipline
	Extend or enhance meanings through...					
	Create precise meanings through everyday, cross-disciplinary, and technical language with...					