

BAKERSFIELD CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT

Education Center – 1300 Baker Street
Bakersfield, California 93305
Curriculum and Standards

Grade 3

Guidelines for Use of Baseline Writing Prompts

The baseline prompt is the same as (or parallel to) the 4th quarter prompt. This is in an effort to demonstrate the growth students will experience during the year. There is no expectation of proficiency on the baseline prompt.

Directions for Writing

The baseline writing prompts are to be distributed and implemented without any prior teaching. As an honest baseline, the prompts should not reflect any classroom pre-writing. Teachers should allow discussion as in the past, but there should not be any modeling of the writing. The baseline prompt should be completed in a single session (60 minutes, maximum).

Purpose of Writing

The purpose of the baseline prompt is to determine which writing targets need the most immediate attention as teachers plan instruction. Teachers may choose to score the prompts and/or use them for a grade, but this is not required. Rather, teachers are asked to simply collect the baseline writings and place them in student writing folders to provide a comparative opportunity at the end of the year. Schools will perform a comparative scoring analysis at the end of the year.