

SWLOM

Student Written Language Observation Matrix

Source: http://www.bobschwab.com/esl_assessment_archive.htm#swlom

The Student Written Language Observation Matrix (SWLOM) is a product of the California State Department of Education. It is a helpful diagnostic tool for a general assessment of group or individual levels of proficiency and for determining broad placement levels for new ELs. It will identify areas of weakness and when used longitudinally it will indicate student progress and development. **This is not a standardized instrument.** This is a useful instrument for individual teachers to assess individuals and groups in an informal or categorical way. Because each teacher tends to evaluate the specifics differently, results can only be considered relevant when compared with observations made by the same teacher or evaluator. Therefore, it should not be used as a broad-based administrative tool where several different evaluators are involved in determining the results.

Traits	1	2	3	4
Fluency	Writes single word with no sentence structure	Writes short sentences with limited sentence structure	Writes complete sentences with developmental sentence structure	Writes paragraphs with fully developed sentence structure
Organization	No logical sequence or organization	Lacks logical sequence and organization	Somewhat sequenced to substantially sequenced	Follows standard organization for the genre
Grammar	No grammatical relationships	Basic word order problems, uses only present tense form	Minor grammatical errors such as – s on verbs in third person singular	Grammar resembles that of speaker of same age
Vocabulary	Insufficient vocabulary to express ideas	Limited vocabulary, relies on 1st language for translation	Knows most words, but lacks vocabulary for finer shades of meaning	Flexible in word choice, similar to native speaker
Genre	No concept of form	Does not differentiate form to suit purpose	Chooses form to suit purpose but limited in choice of forms	Knows different genres and makes appropriate choices
Sentence Variety	No sentence pattern	Uses one or two sentence patterns	Uses several sentence patterns	Uses a full variety of sentence patterns appropriately

Based on your observation, indicate the block in each category that best describes EL's abilities.

SWLOM Phases:

Phase I: Score 1-10 = Non-English Proficient

Phase II: Score 11-15 = Limited English Proficient

Phase III: Score 16-19 = Limited English Proficient

Phase IV: Score 20+ Fully English Proficient. *(based on a perfect score of 24).*

To determine the SWLOM score as a percentile, use the formula: (SWLOM score + 1) X 4.