Can I administer the PK-6 items instead to a very low functioning student who will not be able to write an essay?

Frequently Asked Question:

Can I administer the PK-6 items instead to a very low functioning student who will not be able to write an essay?

Answer:

The student's standard score for Written Expression is based on his or her performance on the assigned grade-appropriate items. You should attempt to administer the Grades 7-16 items. Some students will be able to earn points on Word Fluency and Sentences even when they cannot write a persuasive essay. Once you have scored the subtest based on the grade-appropriate items, you may test the limits by administering the paragraph item and evaluating performance qualitatively.

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http://pearsonassessmentsupport.com/support/index.php?View=entry&EntryID=2156