

Informal Language Diagnostic Example I

The first writing sample (figure 4) is by a 10th-grade girl with an expressive language disorder and dyslexia. The sample is her 10-minute response to a prompt to write about violence in the media. A completed informal language diagnostic for this writing sample follows.

Hollywood, A place were alot of
Student want to go, be and live.
Hollywood Seem to Atract alot
Of kids and teens to be like then
What ever, movie that Comes out
and it has violence, people tend
to copy, Power rangers. the
movie condender Seem to have
some act of violence and by
us whatching it and copying
it seems to get us I more
troble For Eample the movie
Saw an act of violence, But there
is that one person who would
want to try that to see if its
real and if the become addicted
to it will be a daliy thing
WE copy everything WE
see on tv. Why? No one
NOSES.

Figure 4. Writing sample 1 from a 10th-grade girl with expressive language disorder and dyslexia.

Language Facet	Examples from Student's Work <i>What Student Wrote/What Student Meant</i>
Phonology	<i>the/they; student/students; were/where; condender/contender; troble/trouble; eample/example; noses/knows; I/in</i>
Morphology	<i>seem/seems; student/students</i>
Semantics	<i>noses/knows</i>
Syntax	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ <i>Hollywood. A place were a lot of student want to go, be and live.</i> Hollywood is a place where a lot of students want to go, be, and live. ▪ <i>Hollywood seem to atract a lot of kids and teens to be like them.</i> Hollywood seems to attract a lot of kids and teens who want to be like the movie stars. ▪ <i>What ever, movie that comes out and it has violence people tend to copy, powerrangers.</i> Whatever violent movie comes out, people tend to copy the violence. ▪ <i>the movie condender seem to have some act of violence and by us whatching it and copying it seems to get us I more troble...</i> The movie, <u>The Contender</u>, portrays acts of violence. If people copy it, they will get in trouble. ▪ <i>For Eample the movie saw an act of violence, But there is that one person who would want to try that to see If its real and If the become addicted to It will be a daliy thing</i> For example, the movie shows an act of violence, but if a person decides to try it in real life, he or she may start to be violent on a daily basis.
Lexicon	Some vague language (a lot, thing)
Discourse	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Topic not clear until third sentence ▪ Clear point intended despite the syntax. (What ever, movie that comes out and it has violence people tend to copy.) ▪ Offers supporting examples, but the points are totally unclear because they're not specific (... For Eample the move saw an act of violence but there is that one person...") ▪ Makes same point three times using slightly different words ▪ Uses some transition words ▪ Has a clear concluding sentence, but overgeneralizes the point about movies and violence made in the topic sentence
Prosody	n/a
Pragmatics	n/a
Other	Additional Comments on Student's Work
Capitalization	None on titles: <i>I/in; the/The; Eample/example; But/but; If/if; It/it; WE/we; tv/TV; NOSES/knows</i>
Punctuation	<i>its/it's; periods and commas used with some understanding of rules in place but no consistent application</i>
Spelling	<i>alot/a lot; atract/attract; what ever/whatever; whatching/watching; daliy/daily</i>
Legibility	Handwriting clear and spacing good