



T H E W R I T I N G A C A D E M Y , L L C

Teach BIG

C O M P E T I T O R C O M P A R I S O N R E P O R T

Essay Grading

TBASE Automated Scoring Engine vs. 10 Leading K-12 Platforms

AI-Powered Writing Assessment for Texas TEKS Grades 2-10



R A N D I W H I T N E Y

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Product development and design by JMH Solutions.

Comparison based on each company's publicly available materials as of October 2026.

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Executive Summary

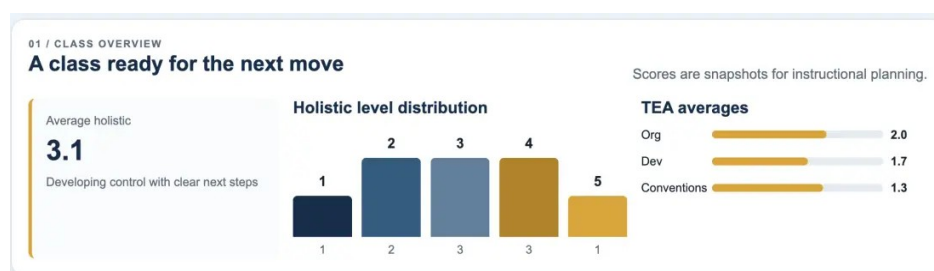
This report compares the Teach BIG TBASE Automated Scoring Engine (ASE) against ten leading K-12 assessment and writing platforms. TBASE is built around TEKS and the STAAR/SST writing expectations for grades 2 through 10, offering AI-driven essay scoring with five focused criteria, five thinking levels, detailed language analysis, and actionable instructional guidance. TEKS-aligned AI essay scoring was not found in the competitor materials reviewed.

In this report, "Not found" means the feature was not located in the competitor's publicly available materials. It does not confirm that the feature is absent.

5 Scoring Criteria	10 Platforms Compared	8 Report Types
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TEACH BIG STRENGTH

TBASE offers TEKS-aligned AI essay scoring with five separate criteria, five thinking levels, and TRACKS + DEEP FACTS analysis. This combination was not found in the competitor materials reviewed.



TBASE class overview: holistic level distribution and TEA criterion averages at a glance.

Texas Fit: TEKS, ELPS, and STAAR/SST Writing

TBASE is built around TEKS and the STAAR/SST writing expectations for grades 2 through 10. ELPS strategies are embedded in instructional guidance. As Texas moves to the new SST (per HB 8, 89th Legislature, effective 2027-28), TBASE is prepared for the transition.

Feature	Teach BIG TBASE	Competitor Equivalent
TEKS writing alignment	Yes, grades 2-10	Not found for writing assessment
ELPS embedded in guidance	Yes, per essay session	ELPS referenced in TX materials (Amplify per amplify.com)
STAAR/SST SCR and ECR item types	Yes	Not found
Five TEKS-aligned scoring criteria	Yes (thesis, organization, evidence, expression, conventions)	Not found as five separate scored criteria
Prepared for SST transition	Yes	Not found

Scoring Criteria Depth

Each criterion produces a separate score and targeted feedback.

Criterion	What TBASE Measures	Competitor Equivalent
Thesis (central idea)	Strength and clarity of the thesis statement	Not found as a separate scored criterion
Organization	Logical structure, transitions, introduction and conclusion	Rubric-aligned comments (Writable per hmhco.com)
Evidence and explanation	Text evidence plus explanation quality (TRACKS + DEEP FACTS)	Not found with evidence-type or explanation-type analysis
Expression of ideas	Sentence variety, word choice, voice	Signal feedback (Turnitin per turnitin.com)
Conventions	Spelling, grammar, punctuation, capitalization	Grammar/mechanics scoring (NoRedInk per noredink.com; IXL per ixl.com)

Feedback and Instructional Tools

Student Superpower identifies the strongest criterion. One BIG Thing focuses the next step. Scaffolded revision activities build from the essay's own content.

Feature	Teach BIG TBASE	Closest Competitor Equivalent
Student Superpower	Yes, auto-identified per essay	Not found
One BIG Thing	Yes, per essay	Not found
Scaffolded revision activities	Yes, with Level 5 exemplar	Iterative feedback loop (Turnitin per turnitin.com)
Spelling/vocabulary test generation	Yes, from essay content	Not found
Five thinking levels	Foundational to Reflective	Not found
TRACKS evidence analysis (6 types)	Yes, per essay and class	Not found
DEEP FACTS explanation analysis (9 strategies)	Yes, per essay and class	Not found

Student Superpower and One BIG Thing combine strength-based feedback with a focused next step, building writer confidence while moving skills forward.

Thinking level 3: Visible

STAAR score: 4 of 5 (Development and Organization 2 of 3, Conventions 2 of 2)

How you answered

You answered the prompt in sentence 1. Great start!

You wrote: "because the coast is too far away and people carried it there by trading"

Your strong moment

"This means people traded with other places, so the shell came with people and not by rolling."

In sentence 7, you wrote this. This is your strong moment. It shows your thinking clearly. Keep doing this!

Try this

End each sentence where it stops

Read your essay out loud. When your voice stops, put a period and start the next sentence with a capital letter.

Sentence starter: **First, ... Next, ...**

Explain your evidence

After each piece of evidence, add a sentence that tells what it shows and how it connects to your answer.

Sentence starter: **This shows that ...**

Every essay helps your thinking grow. You can do this!

Read aloud **Stop** **Speed** **Normal**

Revise and rescore

Fix one or more of these sentences, then select Rescore. You have 3 rescors left for this essay.

"Emsy believes the shell did not roll to Poverty Point on its own because the coast is too far away and people carried it there by trading."

Why: Use a subordinating conjunction to combine two related reasons into one complex sentence, so the explanation sounds connected instead of choppy.

Fix this sentence

Emsy believes the shell did not roll to Poverty Point on its own because the coast is too far away and people carried it there by trading.

Rescore

2026-10-03. Your teacher can see your full report and every revision.

TBASE student report: thinking level, strong moment, revision activities, and read aloud.

Writing Report Types

TBASE generates multiple report types from a single essay session.

TBASE Report	Purpose	Closest Competitor Equivalent
Individual essay report	Holistic + criterion scores, thinking level, Superpower, One BIG Thing, revision activities, exemplar	Rubric scoring + AI feedback (NoRedInk per noredink.com)
Class report with roster	Sortable roster, review flags, groupings	Not found
Criterion heatmap	A-E per criterion per student, color-coded	Not found
Small-group grouping	Auto-grouped by criterion need	Grouping recommendations (i-Ready per curriculumassociates.com)
TRACKS analysis	6 evidence types per student and class	Not found
DEEP FACTS analysis	9 explanation strategies per student and class	Not found
Growth over time	Multi-draft tracking across sessions	Not found
Campus report	Campus-level admin view	Via LMS (Turnitin per turnitin.com)

02 / CLASS ROSTER

Every student, one visible movement Click a header to sort.

Student	Holistic	TEA Org	TEA Dev	Conv.	Criteria: C / O / E / Ex / Co	Instructional grouping	The One BIG Movement
Dolphin 1	5	3	3	2	A A A A A A	reflection and significance	Push the why beyond the facts.
Dolphin 2	4	2	2	2	B B A B A A	evidence-to-reasoning connection	Explain how each fact proves the point.
Dolphin 3	4	3	2	1	B A B B C	conventions	Edit one sentence at a time.
Dolphin 4	3	2	2	1	C C B C C C	organization and transitions	Name the relationship between ideas.
Dolphin 5	3	2	1	1	C C C B C	evidence selection	Choose the strongest fact first.
Dolphin 6	3	1	2	2	C D B C B	thesis alignment	Make every paragraph answer why.
Dolphin 7	2	1	1	1	D D C D C	sentence boundaries	Read aloud and stop at each complete thought.
Dolphin 8	2	1	1	0	D C D C D	conventions	Build a three-word edit checklist.
Dolphin 9	1	0	1	0	E D D D E	sentence boundaries	Say one idea, then stop.
Dolphin 10	2	1	2	1	C D B B C	evidence-to-reasoning connection	Add because after the evidence.

TBASE class roster: criterion heatmap (A-E), Superpower, and One BIG Movement per student.

Teacher Time Saved: Grading Turnaround

TBASE scores essays on submission. Reports are generated automatically. Bulk essay upload allows an entire class set to be scored in a single action.

Platform	Scoring Speed	Bulk Upload
Teach BIG TBASE	On submission	Yes, entire class set
Turnitin	AI assistant feedback (per turnitin.com)	Via LMS (per turnitin.com)
NoRedInk	AI grading on activities (per noredink.com)	Via workflow (per noredink.com)
Writable (HMH)	AI draft scores (per hmhco.com)	Via workflow (per hmhco.com)
Quill.org	AI feedback (per quill.org)	N/A
Renaissance	Not found for essay scoring	N/A
NWEA	Not found for essay scoring	N/A
i-Ready	Not found for essay scoring	N/A
Amplify	Not found for essay scoring	N/A
Istation	Not found for essay scoring	N/A
IXL	Not found for essay scoring	N/A

Professional Learning: Writing PD

Teach BIG offers in-person and virtual professional learning for writing instruction.

Feature	Teach BIG	Competitor Equivalent
ECR writing workshops	Yes (short and extended constructed response)	Not found as writing-specific PD
ECR Trifecta Implementation Guide	Yes (30-page guide)	Not found
WAVE virtual coaching	Yes (aligned to writing clusters)	Not found
Student CAMP models	Yes (in-person or virtual)	Not found
TBASE platform training	Yes (walkthroughs)	Webinars (Turnitin per turnitin.com; IXL per ixl.com)

TEACH BIG STRENGTH

ECR Trifecta connects training, tools, and technology into a sustained professional learning plan for constructed-response writing, with WAVE coaching and Student CAMP models.



Teach BIG educators at a professional learning session, Kemah Boardwalk.

Accessibility: Essay Scoring

TBASE includes built-in read-aloud (English and Spanish) with sentence highlighting. Teacher-designated accommodations include text-to-speech, content and language supports, and extra time.

Feature	Teach BIG TBASE	Closest Competitor Equivalent
Read aloud (English and Spanish)	Yes, with sentence highlighting	Read aloud (Writable per writable.com)
Teacher-designated accommodations	Yes (TTS, content/language supports, extra time)	Not found
Built with semantic HTML and ARIA labels	Yes	WCAG 2.1 AA (NoRedInk per noredink.com/accessibility)
Parent materials in English and Spanish	Yes	Spanish navigation (Writable per writable.com)

Student Privacy

Students are shown by self-chosen identifiers rather than names in Teach BIG reports and screens.

Feature	Teach BIG TBASE	Closest Competitor Equivalent
Self-chosen student identifiers	Yes (such as Dolphin or Starfish)	Schools may use identifiers (IXL per ixl.com/privacypolicy/serviceprivacypolicy)

Research Base: Writing Frameworks

Teach BIG frameworks are grounded in cited research. TRACKS (6 evidence types) and DEEP FACTS (9 explanation strategies) are research-informed tools developed by Randi Whitney.

Framework	What It Provides	Competitor Equivalent
TRACKS (6 evidence types)	Classifies student evidence use	Not found
DEEP FACTS (9 strategies)	Classifies how students explain evidence	Not found
Five thinking levels	Foundational through Reflective	Not found
HABITS	Habitual Actions Build Independent Thinkers	Not found
CSI framework	Structured inquiry for reading and writing	Not found
Cited research articles	Music/memory, morphology, active learning, grade suitability	Efficacy studies (Turnitin, NoRedInk per vendor sites)

Integrations: Essay Score Export

Teach BIG provides its own internal LMS with Clever and ClassLink sign-in. Essay scores export to platforms districts already use.

Integration Feature	Teach BIG TBASE
Internal LMS linking all Teach BIG systems	Yes
Clever and ClassLink SSO	Yes
Essay score export to DMAC, Canvas, Schoology, Google Classroom, PowerSchool, Skyward	Yes

Where Teach BIG Leads

- TBASE is built around TEKS and the STAAR/SST writing expectations with five criteria and ELPS embedded in instructional guidance.
- Unique five-level thinking framework (Foundational through Reflective) connects essay analysis to instructional planning.
- Student Superpower and One BIG Thing combine strength-based feedback with a focused next step.
- TRACKS (6 evidence types) and DEEP FACTS (9 explanation strategies) provide analysis depth not found in the competitor materials reviewed.
- Criterion heatmaps and auto-generated small groups support classroom decisions.
- Built-in read-aloud in English and Spanish, teacher-designated accommodations, and self-chosen student identifiers.
- ECR Trifecta professional learning connects writing workshops, tools, and TBASE technology.

Sources

Turnitin Clarity: <https://in.turnitin.com/press/turnitin-delivers-turnitin-clarity>

Turnitin SSO: <https://help.turnitin.com/sso/clever.htm>

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IXL skills: <https://www.ixl.com>

i-Ready: <https://www.curriculumassociates.com>

Amplify ELPS: https://dam.amplify.com/m/3397cda803d55cb1/original/ELAR_Support_For_All_Learners_25.pdf

TEA HB 8 (SST): <https://tea.texas.gov/about-tea/news-and-multimedia/correspondence/tea-letters/overview-of-house-bill-8-0>

Comparison based on each company's publicly available materials as of October 2026. Product names are trademarks of their owners.