Literatu Scribo

Scribo 2.0 for Schools

Frequently Asked Questions

January 2020

Introduction

Imagine a technology that could save English and Humanities teachers 20 hours a week, deliver personalised feedback to students on demand and help teachers improve the writing abilities of their students. What if that technology also managed the data needed for leaders of districts, faculties and schools? What if this data highlighted where teaching needs reward and more targeted support?

Would educators and universities say “WOW, I’ll take a look at that”, “Impossible!” or “I’m too busy”? There is only one right answer!

Welcome to Scribo!

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Section 1: Get Scribo going in your K-12 School

How do I register my School with Literatu and request Scribo access?

To use Scribo, schools must register with Literatu. Scribo is NOT a free service, however it can be trialled FREE for up to 150 writing checks for up to 50 students in a school. Follow this link and register at the bottom of the page. We will make contact and get your trial community underway. We encourage the use of a single school for multiple teacher accounts. Sign up here

How do I register Teachers and Students?

Teachers and Students register using community / class access keys or via our Literatu school onboarding process. Scribo integrates directly with Edval, O365, Google, Google Classroom and One School to establish teacher, student access, classes and accounts. Scribo can also sync with Microsoft teams, building classes from Teams and vice versa. If you have any of these, please let us know.
For the purposes of a trial, we issue a Teacher registration code. Teachers create classes and give students class key codes to self register.

Can we register Students via Single Sign On (SSO)?

Students can SSO (Single Sign On) in Scribo using their O365 or Google account. With a Student Access code, registration into a class is simple and fast.

What level of Student does Scribo apply to?

Scribo is used from Years 4 through to Tertiary, to grow strong writing skills and techniques. Scribo does this through:

- Active writing connections to students with immediate feedback and analysis powered by AI and ML.

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- Live connections between students and teachers to help reduce the time and latency of feedback and guidance.
- Integrated Data analytics combined with ML and AI to find and highlight where targeted teaching would have an immediate impact on student writing.

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Section 2 : Infrastructure / Delivery

Is Scribo a cloud hosted system?

Yes, Scribo is delivered to schools, colleges and universities via the cloud. Anyone can log in from anywhere there is a web connection, and your login email or user account can be validated.

Does Scribo support SSO with Google and O365?

Yes, we do. Scribo integrates with both. Your primary Google or O365 account can create a Scribo account and you have single click access with no new passwords. Register with Google and/or Microsoft accounts from the front screen.

Does Scribo use AI and ML technology?

Yes, Scribo uses Machine Learning and Artificial Intelligence extensively to make every English and Humanities teacher's life easier. The technology is used primarily in the context of your school or Scribo Community. Data that is shared and used to aggregate and inference learnings across all writing is anonymised. In School environments, teachers can train Scribo to work in a school context. Districts can aggregate data from connected schools to look across the writing abilities of many schools across many levels of dissection.

Does Scribo integrate with Google Classroom?

Yes, Scribo is fully integrated with Google Classroom and Google Docs. Teachers can synchronize classes and activities in one click. Scribo is a Google Docs Add-on available from the Google Marketplace. Teachers and students use all of Scribo from the Google Add-on with no need to leave Google Docs.

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Does Scribo work inside Google Docs and Word O365?

Yes. Scribo is an Add-on from the Google Marketplace store. Scribo for G-Suite works in Docs, fully supporting writing without forcing students away from the authoring platform of choice. Word and Word O365 is fully supported with apps in the Microsoft Add in store.

Can Scribo work with Student and Class keys for quick registration?

Yes, Student and Class keys are the quickest way to get students onboarded. If you use O365 and/or Google without Classroom, register using SOO and enter a key. Presto, you have a class and you are ready to go!

Does Scribo require plugins for the Browser?

No, Scribo is all HTML 5 delivered. There are no plugins required. Scribo works with all major browsers.

Does Scribo integrate with SIS and LMS Systems?

Scribo integrates with SIS and timetable systems such as Edval, directly. Integration with LMS is via LTI launch.

Can Scribo data support BI platforms?

Scribo data can be exported in BI formats for further analysis. We have a direct link from our Ledger platform to Power BI.

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Section 3 : Scribo Platform Features

Can Teachers create and monitor writing activity tasks?

Scribo lets any teacher or publisher create a writing task and share it with others in the school community. Teachers can elect to put their work in a global public library if they would like to share with others. Publishers with writing activity content can build libraries of content to share with schools.

Can Teachers use Scribo to analyse prior texts?

Yes. Scribo can load texts from existing PDF, DOC and Google Drive without any involvement from students. This allows teachers to review student and cohort level analysis quickly, simply by loading and running the Teacher Cohort Panel Report.

Does Scribo analyse Student long format texts and produce feedback?

The main purpose of Scribo is to use ML and AI to build detailed writing feedback and analysis for each student text submitted. When checks are run, Scribo saves over 80 data points on each check. Feedback is given to students on screen as well as report. All Scribo and teacher feedback is captured, analysed and visible back to students. Much detailed data is captured and able to be used for remediation planning and targeted teaching.

Does Scribo have a Student mode?

Scribo is available for students either on the Web or in Google Docs as an Add-on. Scribo Web analyses student text pasted in or loaded from Google Docs or Microsoft Word. Scribo SOLO writing checks contain up to 12 levels of analysis of student text including personalised feedback generated by Scribo from the analysis. Each time the student makes a change, the writing check can be re-run.

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Does Scribo support Students writing with scaffolds , writing plans and writing support materials?

Yes. Scribo lets teachers or publishers create writing scaffolds and support materials that students can access when writing. These options can be switched off for all of granted to students needing more support.

Can Students enter the question they are answering and get writing feedback based on the question?

Scribo allows students to paste in the question or essay prompt they are responding to. Scribo automatically discovers the context, task and limiting words as keywords for the essay. Scribo uses these words in the essay response analysis. Students have topic based analysis built into the feedback.

Does Scribo analyse writing styles?

Yes, Scribo analyses over 12 different writing styles to check if students have followed the question requirements and answered the question. Scribo tracks the efficiency of over 16 different writing styles like Compare, Contrast, Expand Ideas, Give Examples, Cause and Effect, Expand Ideas, Quote and more. Students can select the styles they want to check at will.

Can Scribo create an analysis for all Students in the class?

Scribo is famous for class aggregation reporting. Teachers need to know where their time is best spent across the learning levels of the class. Scribo reads all students' texts and creates a multi-layer analysis of cohort writing. From here, teachers can see live examples of student work and details of each student. Teachable moments are ready, examples from live text are extracted, deep analysis and insights are created in minutes across all students.

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Can Scribo auto grade essays?

We get asked this all the time and the answer is yes provided you use our AI model questions. We are working on a generic grading assistance model right now that helps teachers grade writing components like cohesion, paragraphing, spelling, grammar, vocabulary etc. The elements that remain in the teacher domain are topic and content depth.

Scribo does accurately rank the students based on our deep text analysis. Across many thousands of essays, we have built a formula that ranks students very effectively based on multiple elements of analysis. Using our ranking, teachers can grade much faster. Teachers train Scribo's accuracy by adjusting scales of results across 6 levels of analysis. If teachers confirm or alter our assessment across 6 rankings, Scribo is trained in their way of grading. With base training data in place, we can start auto grading with you.

Does Scribo Support / Align to the Common Core Six Traits of Writing methodology?

Yes, Scribo accurately maps our Scribo six levels of writing analysis to The Six key Traits of writing: Voice, Ideas, Presentation, Conventions, Organization, Word Choice and Sentence Fluency. This has proven to create a common vocabulary and guidelines for teachers to use with students so that they become familiar with the terms used in writing. It develops consistency from grade level to grade level.

What types of grading does Scribo support?

Scribo supports them all. Scribo has very flexible Rubric marking – using your Rubric definitions, not ours. Letter grading and number based X/Y grading can be used as a number or percentage. There is great flexibility with Rubrics. Students can self grade against a Rubric and hand in work for final assessment. Teachers have final grading authority.

Does Scribo support feedback on Student work?

The top 10 feedback capabilities of Scribo include:

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1. Teachers can drop feedback onto student work as they work.
2. Feedback can be spoken – full voice to text capability.
3. Feedback library can be used to shortcut common feedback points.
4. Students get feedback live as soon as the feedback is given.
5. Students get feedback summaries daily or weekly via alerts and email.
6. Teachers get weekly feedback summaries.
7. Scribo feedback is built into Google Comments workflow if Google Docs are linked.
8. Google feedback is integrated back to Scribo allowing students to see all feedback at all times.
9. Feedback statistics are available to teachers instantly with one click.
10. Teachers can give feedback in Scribo, Google or O365 and the Live feedback alert system will communicate with Students.

Can Scribo support Summative and Cold Writing tasks?

Cold Writing tasks are used extensively in Scribo. Students are given a topic, possibly a supporting scaffold, and a writing space to address the question. This writing space has no spell checking or grammar checking support. See the levels of writing as they really are. All data flows into analysis and feedback capabilities. This mode is used for Summative and Formative testing of students to check writing levels.

Can Scribo be used for English and Humanities subjects at all levels?

Yes. Scribo can be used in English and Humanities subjects at all levels of learning. Typically Scribo is used from Year 4 through to Tertiary levels. All that changes is the level of the feedback, the depth of the question / answer and obviously the student response.

Can Scribo give feedback in other languages?

Teachers can dictate feedback in other languages and students can convert English feedback into their mother tongue. Scribo can work with any language supported in Google Chrome.

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Section 4 : Scribo Workflow

Can Teachers monitor Student writing tasks live?

Yes. Teachers can monitor student work as they work in Scribo Web or in Google Docs. Teachers work with a mirror copy and make comments / feedback. This is delivered straight to Students via Web and/or Google Docs.

Can Teachers run a Cohort writing analysis any time?

Yes. At any time, teachers can run a cohort panel report that summarises the writing results and trends for the whole class. The panel report is also available at student level.

Can Scribo support Student peer marking and feedback?

Yes. Scribo has a range of options teachers can set up for students. There is anonymous and declared peer marking with options around Peer marking that make it powerful.44

Does Scribo inform Students about feedback?

Yes. If feedback is made in Scribo to a Google linked document, the student is informed using the Google email workflow that exists now via email. Scribo feedback will also be posted into the Comments section of Google Docs.

Can Students hand work in from Scribo?

Yes, students can hand in their work for marking in Scribo.

Does Scribo produce a Student Grading and Feedback report?

Scribo allows teachers to produce a writing report for each student that summarises their grade, rubric score and feedback given (embedded in the

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document). This report is on screen for students. It is also emailed and available in PDF format.

Can Students access Teacher and Scribo feedback?

Yes. Scribo alerts students to feedback on their work via an online summary and emails that summarize all system-delivered and teacher-created feedback.

Can Teachers get class based summary alerts?

Yes. Scribo will send teacher summaries that suggest which students need which level of assistance in their writing.

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Section 5 : Scribo Analytics

Does Scribo build data efficacy models showing usage?

Yes. Scribo builds efficacy models that show which and where users are accessing Scribo. Scribo keeps count of many major metrics and can break them down in many different ways.

Can Scribo aggregate District / Department metrics to show where targeted teaching is needed?

Yes. Scribo collects all data from the student writing level checks where all data is created from our AI and ML capabilities. Data can be aggregated into multiple levels and representations across all levels to identify areas needing attention quickly.

Do Teachers have access to Student writing growth information?

Yes. Scribo builds data from the lowest level of identification. From Student → Teacher → Class → Year → Subject → Faculty → School → Dept / District.

Key insights show teachers the students and areas that are improving, and those which are not.

Can Students see their own writing metrics?

Yes. Scribo shows students where they are improving, and where they are not, across a range of writing metrics.

Is Scribo the most comprehensive writing support platform available?

No surprise there. Yes. Scribo has been designed to achieve three main goals and in so doing, be relevant to three clear sets of stakeholders.

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1. Engage students with full-time writing support that does more than writing correction. Analysis and feedback that makes a difference via real connections to student writing growth.
2. Educators have live student connections to writing, learning analytics and supporting workflows that reduce the work they do now and give back time to target their teaching.
3. School leaders have a strong base for improvement through live data analytics collated across multiple levels. This is the backbone of writing improvement.

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Section 6 : Terminology / Opinions

What does Writing Grade Level mean?

There is a range of well accepted writing index ratings and grade level indicators that have been around for quite a while. Flesch-Kincaid has a reading ease and grade level index as do Coleman Liau, SMOG, ARI and more. They all base their well researched algorithm around the density and diversity of words used in a sentence in one way or another. Be it syllables, or noun and adjective density, they all implement a formula that equates a level of writing to a grade level a student would need to be at to effectively read the text. This is the Grade Level.

Whilst we use the Coleman Liau index as an element in our calculations, the Writing Level indicates the lowest and highest grade level of writing in your class. In most classes there are 5 years of difference between the bottom and the top.

When it comes to Readability, the readability index calculates a number from 0 – the equivalent of a life insurance policy – to 100, the equivalent of a Dr Seuss book. The scale works in reverse to what you would expect. The best writing range is around 45–60 which means the text is readable by most people. Academic works sit lower, younger writers sit higher. When you see a student who is writing at an academic level for the first time ever – hmm, it might not be their work.

Will AI ever replace Teachers?

Even in 2020, some teachers think Artificial Intelligence (AI) and Machine Learning (ML) are works of science fiction designed to dilute the impact and eventual usefulness of teachers. In reality, nothing could be further from the truth. There is, however, more factual science around the capabilities of technology to support teachers than valid sceptic rumours. There is one thing universally accepted though – there is no way AI will replace teachers until teachers stop thinking, or computers grow a cognitive processing capability – and that's a long way away.

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Since the late 1950's scientists have predicted that computers like Hal from 2001: A Space Odyssey, will be working for us in another 10 years. Well, it's 2020 now and all my friends and I are still waiting. The irony in education is that to improve the technology and the levels of accuracy offered by AI and ML in education, teachers actually hold the keys to the AI / ML future – not Google, Microsoft or Amazon. Without valid and accurate data built by teachers, AI in education will never deliver the benefits it could.

Scribo implements ML and AI to measure and grow each student's writing ability, the most important meta-cognitive skill of every human.

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