ILLUSTRATING THE WRITING STANDARD

'Stories along the River'

The task exemplifies the writing demands of the English and social sciences curriculum learning areas at level 1.

The learning context is a social studies inquiry into how and why people record information about special places, in this case, the Waikato River. The students have been for a walk along the river to look for ways in which important features of the river have been recorded. The students are working in groups to discuss what they have found out, but they are writing their own statements to share with their syndicate.

These are the student's first drafts. Features of the writing that demonstrate the standard are described below.

The following example illustrates the sorts of writing that teachers can expect of students who are meeting the standard. To meet the standard, students draw on the knowledge, skills, and attitudes for writing described in the Literacy Learning Progressions for students at this level.

These pieces of writing show a clear response to the task, with the student communicating two ways in which information about the river has been recorded and explaining why each is important.

The student uses appropriate titles.

The student shows an awareness of the audience through the use of the second person ("you").

The student writes several sentences with varied beginnings.

The student uses modal verbs ("could", "might") to suggest possibilities.

The student uses some key content vocabulary ("Maps", "Waikato river", "taniwha", "olden days", "changes").

The student uses a variety of sentence structures and ways of joining ideas ("and", "that", "so").

The student uses punctuation appropriately and spells most words correctly.

Maps

People can find important places to go to and find there and so we do not get lost. It could lead you to something that bebngs in the Waikato river. It might be a taniwha.

Photos

photos tall you about the olden days at the Waikato Rike so we can see the changes of the river and the places a long the river.