



EdSteps



# EdSteps

A Step Toward Next Generation  
Learning and Assessment

- Writing • Creativity • Problem Solving
- Analyzing Information • Global Competence



## EdSteps is ...



- An illustrated answer to one of the most important questions in education:  

Where is a student **now** – and what does his or her **next step** look like?
- An attempt to display, through authentic student work samples, the full progression of student outcomes in a given skill area.
- Not a grade-based system.



## The Building of EdSteps



- Appointment of the Advisory Board
- Selection and Development of the Skill Areas
  - Problem Solving, Creativity, Analyzing Information, Writing, and Global Competence
- Collection of Thousands of Student Work Samples Demonstrating each Skill
- Online Public Review of Work Samples
- Publication of Student Work Continuums
- Implementation and Impact



## EdSteps is ...



Teachers, students, and parents submit work samples. Work samples are being solicited in the five skill areas:

- From every grade level K-16 as well as the workplace
- From every state and any country
- In every type of digital media

Everyone is invited to participate in reviewing the student work samples. In the past 6 months, EdSteps.org has had users from all 50 states, D.C., every U.S. territory, 80 nations and 6 continents.



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## Collecting Samples of Creativity



Creativity is the valued uses and outcomes of originality driven by imagination, invention, and curiosity

EdSteps is collecting samples of creative work from any content area, in-school and out-of-school, including Science, English, the Arts and any other avenue. Samples can be:

- Videos
- Audio Files
- Essays
- Projects
- Snapshots of Websites
- Pictures of Art with descriptions

## Reviewing Creativity



The work collected will be reviewed by people of all ages and professions from around the country. Reviewers will evaluate each piece with information collected from the author for:

**Potential Impact:** How this work affects the thinking and lives of the creator of the work and/or others.

**Originality:** The extent to which the work and thinking is new and unique.



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## Concept for the EdSteps Continuums

### EXAMPLE

Content area  
Number of  
Scale: 1-25

Click on an

Work Sample  
#783

1  
Least Effective

#### STUDENT:

Gender: Male  
Grade: 3  
State: California  
Country: USA

#### PAPER:

Purpose: Persuasive  
Type: Essay  
Written in: One sitting  
Written for: Peers or colleagues  
Class: English Language Arts

Work was collected from people of all ages, in the United States and around the world.

Let's go swim!

Everyone knows that you need exercise to survive. The most common stereotype of exercise is that it is hard, painful, and/or boring, but really, it is often more enjoyable than sitting on your bum, watching TV. That's why I want you to come to the pool. That's not exercise! You say? It is a lot more exercise than sitting on your rear-end watching TV!

First of all, swimming is fun! You get to hold your breath underwater, jump off the diving board, and do cannonballs into 3' foot water. You can cool off from the hot summerson, and meet new friends.

Next, when you're at the swimming pool, it is easy to learn new things, like to doggy-paddle, to treadwater, or to backstroke, which might save your life one day. You can also learn to do flips underwater, and to dive.

In addition to learning new things, everyone can burn calories at the pool, why I know someone who lost 2 lbs. from swimming! It is very, very important to keep fit, and swimming is an easy way of doing so.

It is very clear to me, and hopefully you too, that you should come swimming with me. You have fun, learn, and get some exercise all at one time, a good combination indeed. In school, you just learn, on video games, you just have fun, and on treadmills you just exercise; but when swimming, you get all 3! So turn off that TV, and let's go swim!

25  
Effective

#### EDUCATOR COMMENTS

1. The writer provides a sound argument for why swimming is better than a variety of other activities. The "fun" angle is a good one, too, as it seeks to speak universally. After all, who doesn't like fun?
2. The essay has voice; has a title; has strong, clearly articulated reasons and examples; and speaks to a broad audience. The paragraphs begin with transitions that make points very clear.
3. The essay has a conversational tone and addresses the reader in an attempt to be engaging. It attempts to include the possible viewpoints of the reader.



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## EdSteps Supporters



- The New York Times Knowledge Network and Epsilen
- School districts and state departments of education, including Iowa, West Virginia, Washington, Pennsylvania, Utah and New Jersey
- Nonprofit organizations, including AACTE, NASBE and the Quaglia Institute for Student Aspirations
- Businesses, including Pearson, MetaMetrics, Wireless Reach and CISCO

## EdSteps

EdSteps is a grassroots effort led by educators to collect, review and publish student work demonstrating performance at every level on the [Skills](#).

EdSteps provides tools to support teaching and learning that prepares every child with the skills and competencies needed for lifelong learning, meaningful work and citizenship.



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Name:  
EdSteps  
(www.edsteps.org)

Status:  
Over 1600 pairs of  
writing were  
reviewed on...

Fans:  
135

### Recent News

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Dec

#### EdSteps Launches Work Collection for Creativity

EdSteps is now seeking work samples demonstrating Creativity. Work samples are welcome in any form, genre, or media. Creativity samples can ...

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