# Essential Element, Linkage Levels, and Mini-Map

**ELA: Grade 4**

**ELA.EE.L.4.2.a**

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**Emergent Writing (EW.4)**

**Initial Precursor**
- Student understands that we use letters to write words. We don't use numbers, punctuation, or other symbols, and we don't draw pictures to represent the referent.

**Distal Precursor**
- Can recognize when a letter is uppercase and when it is lowercase.

**Conventional Writing (CW.4)**

**Proximal Precursor**
- Can indicate a knowledge that when a word is capitalized, the first letter in the word is in uppercase.

**Target**
- Capitalizes the first letter of sentences.

**Successor**
- Capitalizes the correct words when writing a title.

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### How is the Initial Precursor related to the Target?

**Initial Precursor:** Before students can effectively use a capital letter at the beginning of a sentence, they must understand that writing involves letters. Students at the Initial Precursor level can begin learning about letters in the context of writing. Whether they use a standard pencil, keyboard, or alternate pencil, teachers can help students select or write letters about the topics selected for writing. Students can learn letters by using them rather than first learning to identify letters and then use them to write.

### How is the Distal Precursor related to the Target?

**Distal Precursor:** Before students can effectively use a capital letter at the beginning of a sentence, they must understand the difference between uppercase and lowercase letters. In the context of writing, teachers and students can work on distinguishing between uppercase and lowercase letters as they select, write, or type letters to write about the topics the students select.

This Essential Element is tested in an ELA writing testlet. Writing testlets are assessed at two levels: Emergent Writing and Conventional Writing. The Initial and Distal Precursor nodes are assessed in the emergent writing testlet in Grade 4 with two other Essential Elements: ELA.EE.L.4.2.d and ELA.EE.W.4.2.b. The Proximal Precursor, Target, and Successor nodes are assessed in the conventional writing testlet in Grade 4 with two other Essential Elements: ELA.EE.L.4.2.d and ELA.EE.W.4.2.b.

A diagram showing the relationship of nodes in the mini-map appears below.

**Key to map codes in upper right corner of node boxes:**

- **IP** Initial Precursor
- **SP** Supporting
- **DP** Distal Precursor
- **S** Successor
- **PP** Proximal Precursor
- **UN** Untested
- **T** Target
ELA.EE.L.4.2.a - Capitalize the first word in a sentence.
ELA-341
Can produce all upper and lower case letter forms from memory.

ELA-2130
Can demonstrate an understanding of capitalization

ELA-2131
Can identify the situations in which words are capitalized in a sentence

ELA-259
Capitalizes the first letter of sentence

ELA-536
Can use correct capitalization when writing a title