

The Essential Skill of Writing

Ideas/Content and Organization

An In-Depth Training Session For English Language Arts Teachers



Information provided by Oregon Department of Education
Office of Assessment and Information Services

This page is
intentionally left blank.

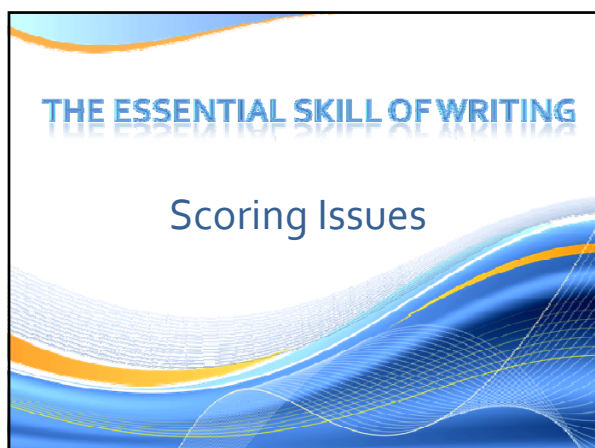
THE ESSENTIAL SKILL OF WRITING
Ideas/Content and Organization
An In-Depth Training Session
For English Language Arts Teachers

GOALS FOR THIS WORKSHOP
Participants will

1. Understand the key components of the traits of Ideas/Content and Organization
2. Recognize student performance at different score levels for Ideas/Content and Organization

GOALS, CONTINUED

3. Develop expertise in scoring student writing for classroom and Essential Skills purposes in Ideas/Content and Organization
4. Understand how CCSS for English Language Arts align with Oregon's writing assessment model



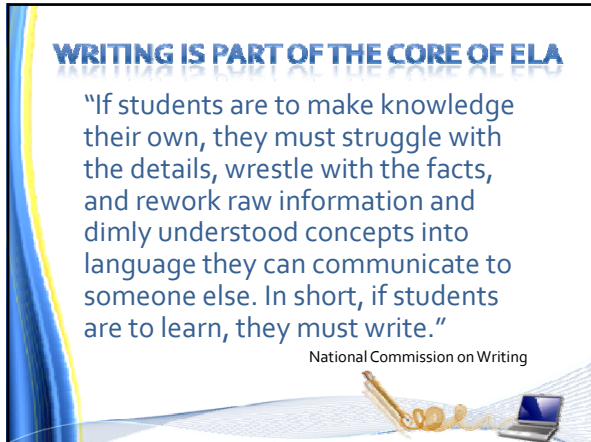




WRITING IS PART OF THE CORE OF ELA

"If students are to make knowledge their own, they must struggle with the details, wrestle with the facts, and rework raw information and dimly understood concepts into language they can communicate to someone else. In short, if students are to learn, they must write."

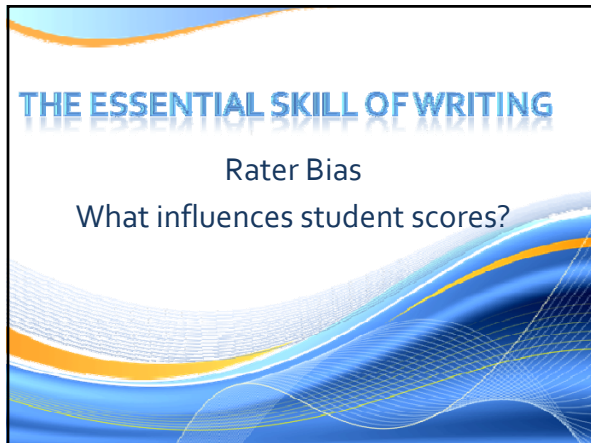
National Commission on Writing



THE ESSENTIAL SKILL OF WRITING

Rater Bias

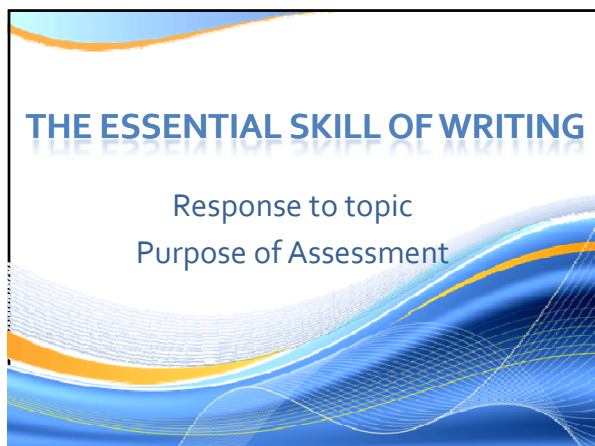
What influences student scores?



SOURCES OF RATER BIAS

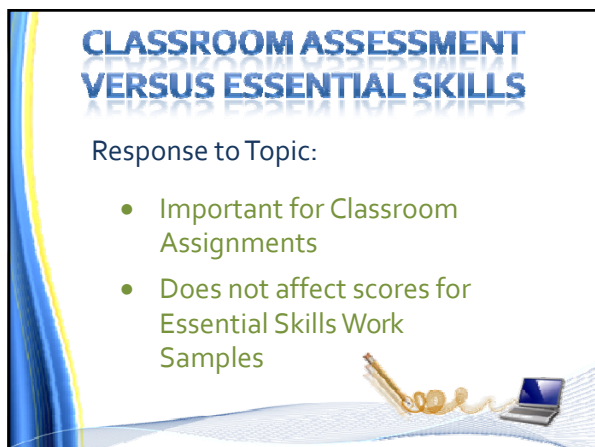
- Appearance of paper (neat, legible, etc.)
- Conflict with personal opinions, beliefs, values
- religious or political themes
- Profanity or extreme violence
- Sympathy score (student really tries hard)
- Pet Peeves





THE ESSENTIAL SKILL OF WRITING

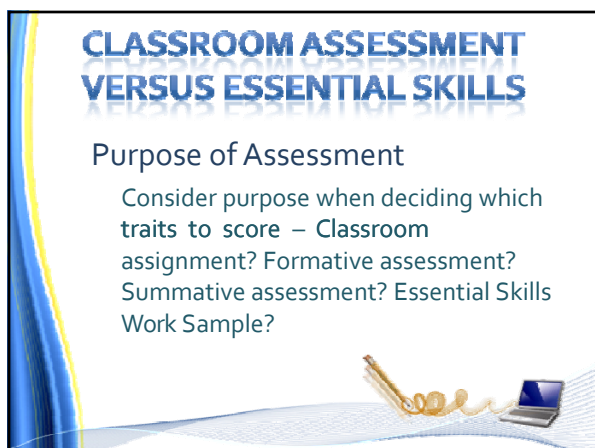
Response to topic
Purpose of Assessment



CLASSROOM ASSESSMENT VERSUS ESSENTIAL SKILLS

Response to Topic:

- Important for Classroom Assignments
- Does not affect scores for Essential Skills Work Samples



CLASSROOM ASSESSMENT VERSUS ESSENTIAL SKILLS

Purpose of Assessment

Consider purpose when deciding which traits to score – Classroom assignment? Formative assessment? Summative assessment? Essential Skills Work Sample?

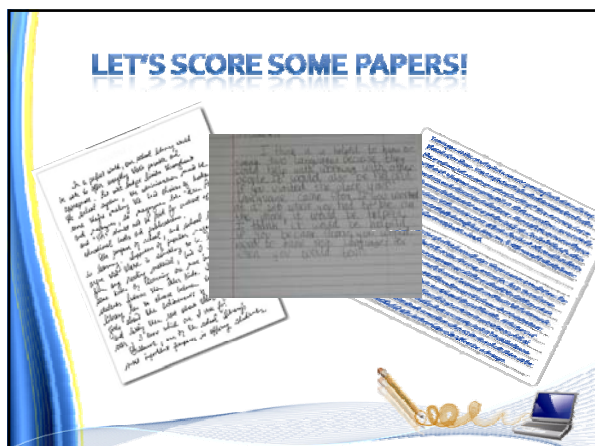




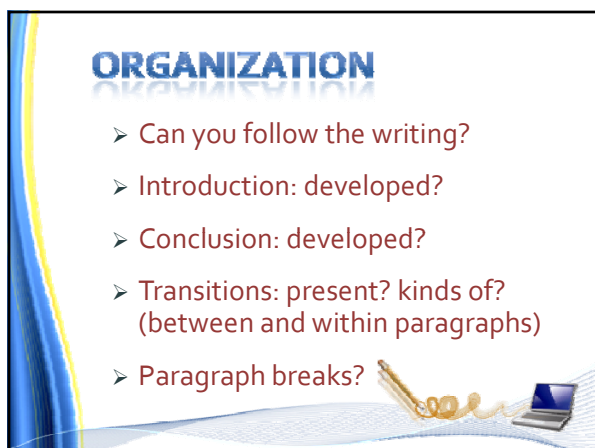
- Clear?
- Focused?
- ENOUGH developmental details?
- Details relevant to main ideas?



Highlight words and phrases that help distinguish a score of 3 from a 4 in Ideas and Content







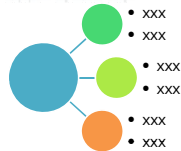
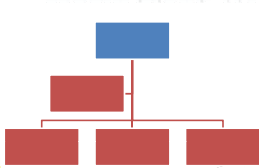
LET'S REVIEW THE SCORING GUIDE



Highlight words and phrases that help distinguish a score of 3 from a 4 in Organization



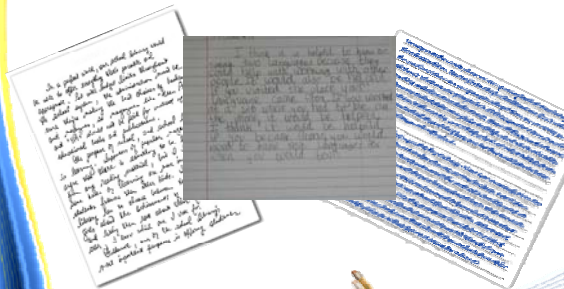
MANY WAYS TO ORGANIZE



- First thing
 - Second thing
 - Third thing
1. First numbered thing
 2. Second numbered thing



LET'S SCORE SOME PAPERS!



COMMON CORE STATE STANDARDS

- Adopted by Oregon State Board of Education
- Include Reading, Writing, Speaking & Listening, and Language
- Also include Literacy in History/Social Studies, Science and Technical Subjects



RESOURCES TO PRACTICE SCORING

- ODE High School Writing Samples:
<http://www.ode.state.or.us/search/page/?=527>
- **OPEN Scoring Site:**
<http://www.openc.k12.or.us/scoring/>
- Clackamas ESD Writing Samples
<http://www.clackesd.k12.or.us/cie/writing.html>

THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION!



OREGON WRITING MODES

DESCRIPTIVE

Writing makes an event, place, person or situation spring to life in the reader's mind by creating pictures with words. Such writing gives the reader the strong sense of being there, reinventing reality in the reader's mind.

- strong, vivid image or impression
- numerous, well-chosen details
- notices what others might overlook
- appeals to senses (as appropriate)
- reader feels part of the experience
- reader can picture/feel what the story is about

PERSONAL NARRATIVE

The story recreates an experience, real or imagined. Four key elements include: characters, setting, conflict, and events that are central to the plot.

- recounts personal experience
- real or plausible
- clear, strong storyline
- momentum – something happens
- easy to paraphrase
- complete, stand-alone story
- good balance of detail
- integrates details
- reason for telling

EXPOSITORY

Writing is meant to inform first, but often to entertain as well. The writer draws on his/her own experience and from sources. The writer shows enough knowledge of the topic to choose information in an order that makes it both clear and interesting.

- gives information
- explains, defines, teaches, clarifies
- facts or examples strongly supported through explanation
- enhances reader's understanding
- anticipates readers' needs with enough information and right information
- writer knows the topic well

PERSUASIVE

The writer crafts an argument, using a combination of logic, wit, winning expression, and skillfully presented evidence. The purpose is to influence the reader's thinking, and sometimes to change his/her mind about something or prompt some action.

- clear statement of central issues
- strong compelling arguments
- opposing arguments considered, refuted
- writer's position is clear, unwavering
- focus on key issues
- enough information to guide discussion
- reader feels convinced, respects writer's position

SELECT A MODE
THAT FITS YOUR

PURPOSE

AND YOUR

AUDIENCE

FICTIONAL NARRATIVE

Writing ventures beyond the known and familiar into new, uncharted territory. The writer is free to create, explore, get inside another's head, bend the rules of logic and order but remains in control, making new connections between the new and the familiar.

- inventive, highly individual
- unique perspective
- fresh ideas, personalized
- connections others haven't made
- beyond the obvious, makes the reader think
- ideas insightful, spontaneous, unpredictable
- writer creates his/her own reality

This page is
intentionally left blank.

ARGUMENTATIVE/PERSUASIVE

Write arguments to support claims in an analysis of substantive topics or texts, using valid reasoning and relevant and sufficient evidence.

- Introduce precise, knowledgeable claim(s)
- Distinguish the claim(s) from alternate or opposing claims
- Create organization that establishes relationships among claims and/or counterclaims
- Develop claims/counterclaims thoroughly with relevant evidence
- Point out strengths and limitations of claims/counterclaims using awareness of audience's knowledge, concerns, values and beliefs
- Use words, phrases and clauses to link sections of the text and clarify the relationships between claim(s), reason(s), and evidence
- Establish formal style while attending to conventions of writing
- Provide a concluding statement or section that follows from and supports the argument presented.

INFORMATIVE/EXPLANATORY

Write informative/explanatory texts to examine and convey complex ideas, concepts, and information clearly and accurately through the effective selection, organization, and analysis of content

Introduce a topic; organize complex ideas, concepts, and information to make important connections and distinctions; include formatting (e.g., headings), graphics (e.g., figures, tables), and multimedia

Develop the topic with well-chosen, relevant, and sufficient facts, extended definitions, concrete details, quotations

Use appropriate, varied transitions to link major sections of the text and clarify relationships among ideas and concepts

Use precise language and domain-specific vocabulary

Establish formal style while attending to conventions of writing

Provide a concluding statement or section that follows from and supports the information or explanation presented

NARRATIVE

Write narratives to develop *real* or *imagined* experiences or events using effective technique, well-chosen details, and well-structured event sequences.

- Engage and orient the reader by setting out a problem or situation and its significance
- Establish one or multiple point(s) of view, introduce a narrator and/or characters
- Create a smooth progression of events
- Use narrative techniques, such as dialogue, pacing, description, reflection, to develop experiences, events, and characters
- Use a variety of techniques to sequence events and create a particular tone/outcome
- Use precise words, phrases, details and sensory language to convey a vivid picture of the events, setting and/or characters
- Provide a conclusion that follows from and reflects on what is experienced, observed, or resolved over the course of the narrative

Research

Conduct short as well as more sustained research projects to answer a question (including a self-generated question) or solve a problem; narrow or broaden the inquiry when appropriate; synthesize multiple sources on the subject, demonstrating understanding of the subject under investigation.

- Gather relevant information from multiple authoritative print and digital sources, using advanced searches effectively; assess the strengths and limitations of each source in terms of the task, purpose, and audience; integrate information into the text selectively to maintain the flow of ideas, avoiding plagiarism and over-reliance on any one source and following a standard format for citation.

This page is
intentionally left blank.

OREGON DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

OFFICIAL SCORING GUIDE, WRITING

Ideas and Content	
<p>6</p> <p>The writing is exceptionally clear, focused, and interesting. It holds the reader’s attention throughout. Main ideas stand out and are developed by strong support and rich details suitable to audience and purpose. The writing is characterized by</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • clarity, focus, and control. • main idea(s) that stand out. • supporting, relevant, carefully selected details; when appropriate, use of resources provides strong, accurate, credible support. • a thorough, balanced, in-depth explanation / exploration of the topic; the writing makes connections and shares insights. • content and selected details that are well-suited to audience and purpose. 	<p>5</p> <p>The writing is clear, focused and interesting. It holds the reader’s attention. Main ideas stand out and are developed by supporting details suitable to audience and purpose. The writing is characterized by</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • clarity, focus, and control. • main idea(s) that stand out. • supporting, relevant, carefully selected details; when appropriate, use of resources provides strong, accurate, credible support. • a thorough, balanced explanation / exploration of the topic; the writing makes connections and shares insights. • content and selected details that are well-suited to audience and purpose.
<p>4</p> <p>The writing is clear and focused. The reader can easily understand the main ideas. Support is present, although it may be limited or rather general. The writing is characterized by</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • an easily identifiable purpose. • clear main idea(s). • supporting details that are relevant, but may be overly general or limited in places; when appropriate, resources are used to provide accurate support. • a topic that is explored / explained, although developmental details may occasionally be out of balance with the main idea(s); some connections and insights may be present. • content and selected details that are relevant, but perhaps not consistently well-chosen for audience and purpose. 	<p>3</p> <p>The reader can understand the main ideas, although they may be overly broad or simplistic, and the results may not be effective. Supporting detail is often limited, insubstantial, overly general, or occasionally slightly off-topic. The writing is characterized by</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • an easily identifiable purpose and main idea(s). • predictable or overly-obvious main ideas; or points that echo observations heard elsewhere; or a close retelling of another work. • support that is attempted, but developmental details are often limited, uneven, somewhat off-topic, predictable, or too general (e.g., a list of underdeveloped points). • details that may not be well-grounded in credible resources; they may be based on clichés, stereotypes or questionable sources of information. • difficulties when moving from general observations to specifics.
<p>2</p> <p>Main ideas and purpose are somewhat unclear or development is attempted but minimal. The writing is characterized by</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • a purpose and main idea(s) that may require extensive inferences by the reader. • minimal development; insufficient details. • irrelevant details that clutter the text. • extensive repetition of detail. 	<p>1</p> <p>The writing lacks a central idea or purpose. The writing is characterized by</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ideas that are extremely limited or simply unclear. • attempts at development that are minimal or nonexistent; the paper is too short to demonstrate the development of an idea.

OREGON DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

OFFICIAL SCORING GUIDE, WRITING

Organization	
<p>6</p> <p>The organization enhances the central idea(s) and its development. The order and structure are compelling and move the reader through the text easily. The writing is characterized by</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • effective, perhaps creative, sequencing and paragraph breaks; the organizational structure fits the topic, and the writing is easy to follow. • a strong, inviting beginning that draws the reader in and a strong, satisfying sense of resolution or closure. • smooth, effective transitions among all elements (sentences, paragraphs, ideas). • details that fit where placed. 	<p>5</p> <p>The organization enhances the central idea(s) and its development. The order and structure are strong and move the reader through the text. The writing is characterized by</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • effective sequencing and paragraph breaks; the organizational structure fits the topic, and the writing is easy to follow. • an inviting beginning that draws the reader in and a satisfying sense of resolution or closure. • smooth, effective transitions among all elements (sentences, paragraphs, ideas). • details that fit where placed.
<p>4</p> <p>Organization is clear and coherent. Order and structure are present, but may seem formulaic. The writing is characterized by</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • clear sequencing and paragraph breaks. • an organization that may be predictable. • a recognizable, developed beginning that may not be particularly inviting; a developed conclusion that may lack subtlety. • a body that is easy to follow with details that fit where placed. • transitions that may be stilted or formulaic. • organization which helps the reader, despite some weaknesses. 	<p>3</p> <p>An attempt has been made to organize the writing; however, the overall structure is inconsistent or skeletal. The writing is characterized by</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • attempts at sequencing and paragraph breaks, but the order or the relationship among ideas may occasionally be unclear. • a beginning and an ending which, although present, are either undeveloped or too obvious (e.g., “My topic is...”; “These are all the reasons that...”). • transitions that sometimes work. The same few transitional devices (e.g., coordinating conjunctions, numbering, etc.) may be overused. • a structure that is skeletal or too rigid. • placement of details that may not always be effective. • organization which lapses in some places, but helps the reader in others.
<p>2</p> <p>The writing lacks a clear organizational structure. An occasional organizational device is discernible; however, the writing is either difficult to follow and the reader has to reread substantial portions, or the piece is simply too short to demonstrate organizational skills. The writing is characterized by</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • some attempts at sequencing, but the order or the relationship among ideas is frequently unclear; a lack of paragraph breaks. • a missing or extremely undeveloped beginning, body, and/or ending. • a lack of transitions, or when present, ineffective or overused. • a lack of an effective organizational structure. • details that seem to be randomly placed, leaving the reader frequently confused. 	<p>1</p> <p>The writing lacks coherence; organization seems haphazard and disjointed. Even after rereading, the reader remains confused. The writing is characterized by</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • a lack of effective sequencing and paragraph breaks. • a failure to provide an identifiable beginning, body and/or ending. • a lack of transitions. • pacing that is consistently awkward; the reader feels either mired down in trivia or rushed along too rapidly. • a lack of organization which ultimately obscures or distorts the main point.

Draft Comparison

CCSS Standards for Grades 11&12 Writing & Oregon Writing Scoring Guide (Level 5 Descriptors)

The Common Core State Standards were adopted by the Oregon State Board of Education in October 2010. There are 10 College and Career Readiness Standards for Writing. These are followed by grade-level specific standards in alphabetic order. This document compares the grade-level writing standards for Grades 11 & 12 with the traits and bulleted details under each trait at the score level of 5 on the Oregon Writing Scoring Guide. (Grades 9 & 10 grade-level standards are very similar.) This is not a comprehensive comparison. Instead, the purpose is to identify common purposes between existing practice in Oregon and the new Common Core State Standards.

CCR Standard 1: Write arguments to support claims in an analysis of substantive topics or texts, using valid reasoning and relevant and sufficient evidence. **Oregon Mode:** Persuasive Writing

Common Core State Standards	Oregon Writing Scoring Guide (Score Level 5)
a. Introduce precise, knowledgeable claim(s), establish the significance of the claim(s), distinguish the claim(s) from alternate or opposing claims, and create an organization that logically sequences claim(s), counterclaims, reasons, and evidence.	Ideas & Content <ul style="list-style-type: none"> supporting, relevant, carefully selected details; when appropriate, use of resources provides strong, accurate, credible support. a thorough, balanced explanation / exploration of the topic; the writing makes connections and shares insights. Organization <ul style="list-style-type: none"> effective sequencing and paragraph breaks; the organizational structure fits the topic, and the writing is easy to follow.
b. Develop claim(s) and counterclaims fairly and thoroughly, supplying the most relevant evidence for each while pointing out the strengths and limitations of both in a manner that anticipates the audience's knowledge level, concerns, values, and possible biases.	Ideas & Content <ul style="list-style-type: none"> supporting, relevant, carefully selected details; when appropriate, use of resources provides strong, accurate, credible support. a thorough, balanced explanation / exploration of the topic; the writing makes connections and shares insights. content and selected details that are well-suited to audience and purpose.
c. Use words, phrases, and clauses as well as varied syntax to link the major sections of the text, create cohesion, and clarify the relationships between claim(s) and reasons, between reasons and evidence, and between claim(s) and counterclaims.	Sentence Fluency <ul style="list-style-type: none"> variation in sentence structure, length, and beginnings that add interest to the text. sentence structure that enhances meaning. Ideas & Content <ul style="list-style-type: none"> the writing makes connections and shares insights. Organization <ul style="list-style-type: none"> smooth, effective transitions among all elements (sentences, paragraphs, ideas)
d. Establish and maintain a formal style and objective tone while attending to the norms and	Voice <ul style="list-style-type: none"> an appropriate level of closeness to or distance from the audience (e.g., a

conventions of the discipline in which they are writing.	<p>narrative should have a strong personal voice, while an expository piece may require extensive use of outside resources and a more academic voice; nevertheless, both should be engaging, lively, or interesting. Technical writing may require greater distance.)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • a strong sense of audience; the writer seems to be aware of the reader and of how to communicate the message most effectively. The reader may discern the writer behind the words and feel a sense of interaction <p>Conventions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • strong control of conventions. • effective use of punctuation that guides the reader through the text. • correct spelling, even of more difficult words. • correct capitalization; errors, if any, are minor. • correct grammar and usage that contribute to clarity and style. • skill in using a wide range of conventions in a sufficiently long and complex piece. • little need for editing.
e. Provide a concluding statement or section that follows from and supports the argument presented.	<p>Organization</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • an inviting beginning that draws the reader in and a satisfying sense of resolution or closure.

CCR Standard 2: Write informative/explanatory texts to examine and convey complex ideas and information clearly and accurately through the effective selection, organization, and analysis of content. **Oregon Mode:** Expository Writing

<p>a. Introduce a topic; organize complex ideas, concepts, and information so that each new element builds on that which precedes it to create a unified whole; include formatting (e.g., headings), graphics (e.g., figures, tables), and multimedia when useful to aiding comprehension.</p>	<p>Ideas & Content</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • clarity, focus, and control. • main idea(s) that stand out. • supporting, relevant, carefully selected details; when appropriate, use of resources provides strong, accurate, credible support. • a thorough, balanced explanation / exploration of the topic; the writing makes connections and shares insights. • content and selected details that are well-suited to audience and purpose. <p>Organization</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • effective sequencing and paragraph breaks; the organizational structure fits the topic, and the writing is easy to follow. • an inviting beginning that draws the reader in and a satisfying sense of resolution or closure. • smooth, effective transitions among all elements (sentences, paragraphs, ideas).
--	---

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • details that fit where placed.
b. Develop the topic thoroughly by selecting the most significant and relevant facts, extended definitions, concrete details, quotations, or other information and examples appropriate to the audience's knowledge of the topic.	Ideas & Content <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • clarity, focus, and control. • main idea(s) that stand out. • supporting, relevant, carefully selected details; when appropriate, use of resources provides strong, accurate, credible support. • a thorough, balanced explanation / exploration of the topic; the writing makes connections and shares insights. • content and selected details that are well-suited to audience and purpose.
c. Use appropriate and varied transitions and syntax to link the major sections of the text, create cohesion, and clarify the relationships among complex ideas and concepts.	Organization <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • smooth, effective transitions among all elements (sentences, paragraphs, ideas). • details that fit where placed. Sentence Fluency <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • sentence structure that enhances meaning.
d. Use precise language, domain-specific vocabulary, and techniques such as metaphor, simile, and analogy to manage the complexity of the topic.	Word Choice <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • accurate, specific words; word choices energize the writing. • fresh, vivid expression; slang, if used, seems purposeful and is effective. • vocabulary that may be striking and varied, but that is natural and not overdone. • ordinary words used in an unusual way. • words that evoke clear images; figurative language may be used.
e. Establish and maintain a formal style and objective tone while attending to the norms and conventions of the discipline in which they are writing.	Voice <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • an appropriate level of closeness to or distance from the audience (e.g., a narrative should have a strong personal voice, while an expository piece may require extensive use of outside resources and a more academic voice; nevertheless, both should be engaging, lively, or interesting. Technical writing may require greater distance.) • a strong sense of audience; the writer seems to be aware of the reader and of how to communicate the message most effectively. The reader may discern the writer behind the words and feel a sense of interaction. Conventions <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • strong control of conventions. • effective use of punctuation that guides the reader through the text.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • correct spelling, even of more difficult words. • correct capitalization; errors, if any, are minor. • correct grammar and usage that contribute to clarity and style. • skill in using a wide range of conventions in a sufficiently long and complex piece. • little need for editing.
f. Provide a concluding statement or section that follows from and supports the information or explanation presented (e.g., articulating implications or the significance of the topic).	<p>Organization</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • an inviting beginning that draws the reader in and a satisfying sense of resolution or closure. <p>Ideas & Content</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • supporting, relevant, carefully selected details; when appropriate, use of resources provides strong, accurate, credible support.

CCR Standard 3: Write narratives to develop real or imagined experiences or events using effective technique, well-chosen details, and well-structured event sequences. **Oregon Mode: Narrative and Imaginative**

a. Engage and orient the reader by setting out a problem, situation, or observation and its significance, establishing one or multiple point(s) of view, and introducing a narrator and/or characters; create a smooth progression of experiences or events.	<p>Ideas & Content</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • clarity, focus, and control. • main idea(s) that stand out. • supporting, relevant, carefully selected details; when appropriate, use of resources provides strong, accurate, credible support. • a thorough, balanced explanation / exploration of the topic; the writing makes connections and shares insights. • content and selected details that are well-suited to audience and purpose. <p>Organization</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • effective sequencing and paragraph breaks; the organizational structure fits the topic, and the writing is easy to follow. • smooth, effective transitions among all elements (sentences, paragraphs, ideas). • details that fit where placed.
b. Use narrative techniques, such as dialogue, pacing, description, reflection, and multiple plot lines, to develop experiences, events, and/or characters.	<p>Voice</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • a strong sense of audience; the writer seems to be aware of the reader and of how to communicate the message most effectively. The reader may discern the writer behind the words and feel a sense of interaction. • a sense that the topic has come to life; when appropriate, the writing may show originality, liveliness, honesty, conviction, excitement, humor, or suspense. <p>Sentence Fluency</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • stylistic control; dialogue, if used, sounds natural. Word Choice <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • accurate, specific words; word choices energize the writing • words that evoke clear images; figurative language may be used
c. Use a variety of techniques to sequence events so that they build on one another to create a coherent whole and build toward a particular tone and outcome (e.g., a sense of mystery, suspense, growth, or resolution).	Organization <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • effective sequencing and paragraph breaks; the organizational structure fits the topic, and the writing is easy to follow. • smooth, effective transitions among all elements (sentences, paragraphs, ideas). • details that fit where placed. Word Choice <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • words that evoke clear images; figurative language may be used. Ideas & Content <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • clarity, focus, and control. • main idea(s) that stand out. • a thorough, balanced explanation / exploration of the topic; the writing makes connections and shares insights. • content and selected details that are well-suited to audience and purpose.
d. Use precise words and phrases, telling details, and sensory language to convey a vivid picture of the experiences, events, setting, and/or characters.	Word Choice <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • accurate, specific words; word choices energize the writing. • fresh, vivid expression; slang, if used, seems purposeful and is effective. • vocabulary that may be striking and varied, but that is natural and not overdone. • ordinary words used in an unusual way. • words that evoke clear images; figurative language may be used.
e. Provide a conclusion that follows from and reflects on what is experienced, observed, or resolved over the course of the narrative.	Organization <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • an inviting beginning that draws the reader in and a satisfying sense of resolution or closure.

CCR Standard 4. Produce clear and coherent writing in which the development, organization, and style are appropriate to task, purpose, and audience. *(Grade-specific expectations for writing types are defined in standards 1–3 above.)*

CCR Standard 5. Develop and strengthen writing as needed by planning, revising, editing, rewriting, or trying a new approach, focusing on addressing what is most significant for a specific purpose and audience. *(Editing for conventions should demonstrate command of Language standards 1–3 up to and including grades 11–12.)*

CCR Standard 6. Use technology, including the Internet, to produce, publish, and update individual or shared writing products in

response to ongoing feedback, including new arguments or information.

CCR Standard 7. Conduct short as well as more sustained research projects to answer a question (including a self-generated question) or solve a problem; narrow or broaden the inquiry when appropriate; synthesize multiple sources on the subject, demonstrating understanding of the subject under investigation. (**Oregon Writing Scoring Guide** includes a trait for Citing Sources to be used with short or longer research projects.)

CCR Standard 8. Gather relevant information from multiple authoritative print and digital sources, using advanced searches effectively; assess the strengths and limitations of each source in terms of the task, purpose, and audience; integrate information into the text selectively to maintain the flow of ideas, avoiding plagiarism and overreliance on any one source and following a standard format for citation. (**Oregon Writing Scoring Guide** includes a trait for Citing Sources to be used with short or longer research projects.)

CCR Standard 9. Draw evidence from literary or informational texts to support analysis, reflection, and research.

a. Apply grades 11–12 Reading standards to literature (e.g., “Demonstrate knowledge of eighteenth-, nineteenth- and early-twentieth-century foundational works of American literature, including how two or more texts from the same period treat similar themes or topics”).	
b. Apply grades 11–12 Reading standards to literary nonfiction (e.g., “Delineate and evaluate the reasoning in seminal U.S. texts, including the application of constitutional principles and use of legal reasoning [e.g., in U.S. Supreme Court Case majority opinions and dissents] and the premises, purposes, and arguments in works of public advocacy [e.g., The Federalist, presidential addresses]”).	

CCR Standard 10. Write routinely over extended time frames (time for research, reflection, and revision) and shorter time frames (a single sitting or a day or two) for a range of tasks, purposes, and audiences.

Writing Terminology Compared: WRITING Common Core State Standards (CCSS) and the Oregon Writing Standards

In April 2011, representatives from higher education, districts, and Education Service Districts collaborated to design and draft transition resources for the English Language Arts Common Core State Standards (CCSS). As context for this work, comparisons between the Common Core (adopted in October 2010) and Oregon’s English language arts standards (adopted in 2003) were reviewed using the [ELA Crosswalk](#).

“Writing Terminology Compared” was designed by

- Annie Kelsey, School Improvement Specialist, Northwest Regional Education Service District (NWRES D)*
- Mary Beth Munroe, Literacy Coach, Medford School District*
- Amanda Sanford, Ph.D., Assistant Professor of Special Education, Portland State University (PSU)*
- Marta Turner, School Improvement Coordinator, Northwest Regional Education Service District (NWRES D)*
- Linda Vanderford, Literacy Consultant, Clackamas Education Service District (CESD)*

Writing Terminology Compared: WRITING Common Core State Standards (CCSS) and the Oregon Writing Standards

(See also CCSS **Glossary of Key Terms**, [Appendix A](#), pp. 45-46)

CCSS Writing Standards	Grades (CCSS)	CCSS Terms	Grades (Oregon)	Oregon Terms	Discussion
1	K-5	<i>Opinion pieces</i>	4 - 9/10	<i>Persuasive compositions</i>	The distinction is that the CCSS calls for students to express and support their opinions rather than persuade the reader to agree with them. (See <i>Arguments</i> below.)
1, 2	2-3	<i>Linking words and phrases</i>	4-6 9/10	<i>Transitions</i> <i>Conjunctions, transitional elements</i>	
1, 2	6-11/12	<i>Arguments</i>	4 - 9/10	<i>Persuasive compositions</i>	<p>These terms are sometimes used synonymously, but there are distinctions between the CCSS and Oregon Standards.</p> <p>The purpose of the argumentative essay is to establish the soundness or validity of one's own position through reasons and evidence while the purpose of the persuasive essay is to persuade the reader to adopt that position. Whereas opposing viewpoints may be acknowledged in persuasive essays, the CCSS Writing Standard 1 calls for students to develop counterclaims "fairly and thoroughly" at the upper grade levels. The effective difference between the intent of these two terms varies at different grade levels.</p> <p>For instance, at grade 4, the intent of the two terms is different:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Oregon EL.04.WR.26 calls for students "to convince the reader to take a certain action or to avoid a certain action." • The CCSS Writing Standard 1 at grade 4 is "Write opinion pieces on topics or texts, supporting a point of view with reasons and information." • This CCSS is consistent with the CCR "... to support claims in an analysis of substantive topics or texts, using valid reasoning and relevant and sufficient evidence." <p>However, at grades 6 through 9-10, there may be less effective difference, depending on the extent to which students responded to the part of the Oregon standards calling for them to "address counter-arguments/counter-claims."</p>

CCSS Writing Standards	Grades (CCSS)	CCSS Terms	Grades (Oregon)	Oregon Terms	Discussion
					Finally, there may be a consequent difference in organization: While the persuasive essay may use the basic essay format (the "five paragraph format"), at the upper grades the well-developed argumentative essay may require a different organizational structure to present and address counterclaims. Three example formats are explained on the Essay Writing Help.com website at http://www.essaywritinghelp.com/argumentative.htm
1, 2	7 - 11/12	<i>Cohesion</i>	6, 9/10 8	<i>Unify, Coherence</i> <i>Coherent</i>	
1, 2	11/12	<i>Varied syntax</i>	4 8 - 9/10 7	<i>Variety of sentence patterns</i> <i>Varied sentence types</i> <i>Vary sentence beginnings</i> <i>(also, specific structures, e.g., infinitives, subordination, coordination, apposition, etc.)</i>	
1, 2	6 -11/12 9/10 - 11/12	<i>Formal style</i> <i>Objective tone</i>	5-6 8 9/10	<i>Adjusting tone and style as appropriate</i> <i>Establishing tone and mood</i> <i>Consistent tone</i>	<p>Oregon Standards do not call specifically for a formal style or objective tone, and this element in the CCSS raises the level of rigor for students.</p> <p>Some characteristics of academic formal style</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Subject matter</u> is substantial. • <u>Vocabulary</u> is precise, concise and advanced, often scholarly or technical. Slang, contractions, colloquial expressions are absent. • <u>Sentences</u> are longer and more complex with subordination, longer verb phrases. • <u>Tone</u> is serious, polite but impersonal, without attempts to be clever or humorous; <i>the reader</i> or <i>one</i> is used instead of <i>you</i> or <i>I</i>. • <u>Grammatical rules</u> are observed. <p><u>Passive voice</u> may be used; <u>expletive pronouns</u> (it, there) may be used as subjects (avoiding overuse in each case).</p>

CCSS Writing Standards	Grades (CCSS)	CCSS Terms	Grades (Oregon)	Oregon Terms	Discussion
2	K - 11/12	<i>Informative/explanatory texts</i>	1 2 3 4 5-8 9/10	<i>Expository descriptions</i> <i>Informative reports</i> <i>Descriptive pieces</i> <i>Informational reports</i> <i>Research reports</i> <i>Analytical and research reports</i>	
2	3 - 11/12	<i>Introduce a topic</i>	2 4 5 7 8 9/10	<i>Introductory sentence</i> <i>Create ... a topic sentence, establish ... a central idea</i> <i>Establish a main idea</i> <i>State the thesis</i> <i>Specify a thesis</i> <i>Establish a coherent ... thesis</i>	
2	4 - 11/12	<i>Domain-specific vocabulary</i>	9/10	<i>Technical terms</i>	Domain-specific vocabulary would include terms from the other subject areas (e.g., health, science, social studies).
3	K	<i>Narrate a single event or several loosely linked events</i>	K - 1	<i>Write brief stories</i>	
3	1 - 11/12	<i>Write narratives</i>	1 2 3 4 5-6 7 8-9/10	<i>Write brief stories</i> <i>Write brief narratives</i> <i>Write narratives</i> <i>Write personal narratives</i> <i>Write fictional narratives</i> <i>Write fictional or autobiographical narratives and short stories</i> <i>Write biographical or autobiographical narratives</i>	

CCSS Writing Standards	Grades (CCSS)	CCSS Terms	Grades (Oregon)	Oregon Terms	Discussion
3	1- 3	<i>Temporal words</i>	1-2	Implied in <i>Sequence ... events</i>	Temporal words refer to time. Some that might be used at the primary level include <i>yesterday, now, when, first, second, next, last, later, before</i> .
3	5 - 11/12	<i>Narrative techniques</i>	6 7 8	<i>Narrative devices</i> <i>appropriate strategies</i> <i>narrative and descriptive strategies</i>	The narrative techniques are enumerated in the CCSS at each level (e.g., "dialogue, pacing, description, reflection, and multiple plot lines").
5	2 - 11/12	<i>Planning revising, editing, rewriting, or trying a new approach</i>	1-9/10	<i>Writing process</i>	
9	4 - 11/12	<i>Literary or informational text</i>	1-9/10	<i>Literature/Literary Text</i>	CCSS "informational text" includes literary non-fiction, which is included as literature in Oregon's standards.

Additional resources for CCSS ELA may be found at <http://www.ode.state.or.us/search/page/?id=3359>

This page is
intentionally left blank.

COMMON CORE STATE STANDARDS FOR

(Writing Standards Only)
English Language Arts



College and Career Readiness Anchor Standards for Writing

The K–5 standards on the following pages define what students should understand and be able to do by the end of each grade. They correspond to the College and Career Readiness (CCR) anchor standards below by number. The CCR and grade-specific standards are necessary complements—the former providing broad standards, the latter providing additional specificity—that together define the skills and understandings that all students must demonstrate.

Text Types and Purposes*

1. Write arguments to support claims in an analysis of substantive topics or texts, using valid reasoning and relevant and sufficient evidence.
2. Write informative/explanatory texts to examine and convey complex ideas and information clearly and accurately through the effective selection, organization, and analysis of content.
3. Write narratives to develop real or imagined experiences or events using effective technique, well-chosen details, and well-structured event sequences.

Production and Distribution of Writing

4. Produce clear and coherent writing in which the development, organization, and style are appropriate to task, purpose, and audience.
5. Develop and strengthen writing as needed by planning, revising, editing, rewriting, or trying a new approach.
6. Use technology, including the Internet, to produce and publish writing and to interact and collaborate with others.

Research to Build and Present Knowledge

7. Conduct short as well as more sustained research projects based on focused questions, demonstrating understanding of the subject under investigation.
8. Gather relevant information from multiple print and digital sources, assess the credibility and accuracy of each source, and integrate the information while avoiding plagiarism.
9. Draw evidence from literary or informational texts to support analysis, reflection, and research.

Range of Writing

10. Write routinely over extended time frames (time for research, reflection, and revision) and shorter time frames (a single sitting or a day or two) for a range of tasks, purposes, and audiences.

Note on range and content of student writing

To build a foundation for college and career readiness, students need to learn to use writing as a way of offering and supporting opinions, demonstrating understanding of the subjects they are studying, and conveying real and imagined experiences and events. They learn to appreciate that a key purpose of writing is to communicate clearly to an external, sometimes unfamiliar audience, and they begin to adapt the form and content of their writing to accomplish a particular task and purpose. They develop the capacity to build knowledge on a subject through research projects and to respond analytically to literary and informational sources. To meet these goals, students must devote significant time and effort to writing, producing numerous pieces over short and extended time frames throughout the year.

*These broad types of writing include many subgenres. See Appendix A for definitions of key writing types.

Writing Standards K-5

The following standards for K-5 offer a focus for instruction each year to help ensure that students gain adequate mastery of a range of skills and applications. Each year in their writing, students should demonstrate increasing sophistication in all aspects of language use, from vocabulary and syntax to the development and organization of ideas, and they should address increasingly demanding content and sources. *Students advancing through the grades are expected to meet each year's grade-specific standards and retain or further develop skills and understandings mastered in preceding grades.* The expected growth in student writing ability is reflected both in the standards themselves and in the collection of annotated student writing samples in Appendix C.

Kindergartners:	Grade 1 students:	Grade 2 students:
Text Types and Purposes		
1. Use a combination of drawing, dictating, and writing to compose opinion pieces in which they tell a reader the topic or the name of the book they are writing about and state an opinion or preference about the topic or book (e.g., <i>My favorite book is . . .</i>).	1. Write opinion pieces in which they introduce the topic or name the book they are writing about, state an opinion, supply a reason for the opinion, and provide some sense of closure.	1. Write opinion pieces in which they introduce the topic or book they are writing about, state an opinion, supply reasons that support the opinion, use linking words (e.g., <i>because, and, also</i>) to connect opinion and reasons, and provide a concluding statement or section.
2. Use a combination of drawing, dictating, and writing to compose informative/explanatory texts in which they name what they are writing about and supply some information about the topic.	2. Write informative/explanatory texts in which they name a topic, supply some facts about the topic, and provide some sense of closure.	2. Write informative/explanatory texts in which they introduce a topic, use facts and definitions to develop points, and provide a concluding statement or section.
3. Use a combination of drawing, dictating, and writing to narrate a single event or several loosely linked events, tell about the events in the order in which they occurred, and provide a reaction to what happened.	3. Write narratives in which they recount two or more appropriately sequenced events, include some details regarding what happened, use temporal words to signal event order, and provide some sense of closure.	3. Write narratives in which they recount a well-elaborated event or short sequence of events, include details to describe actions, thoughts, and feelings, use temporal words to signal event order, and provide a sense of closure.
Production and Distribution of Writing		
4. (Begins in grade 3)	4. (Begins in grade 3)	4. (Begins in grade 3)
5. With guidance and support from adults, respond to questions and suggestions from peers and add details to strengthen writing as needed.	5. With guidance and support from adults, focus on a topic, respond to questions and suggestions from peers, and add details to strengthen writing as needed.	5. With guidance and support from adults and peers, focus on a topic and strengthen writing as needed by revising and editing.
6. With guidance and support from adults, explore a variety of digital tools to produce and publish writing, including in collaboration with peers.	6. With guidance and support from adults, use a variety of digital tools to produce and publish writing, including in collaboration with peers.	6. With guidance and support from adults, use a variety of digital tools to produce and publish writing, including in collaboration with peers.
Research to Build and Present Knowledge		
7. Participate in shared research and writing projects (e.g., explore a number of books by a favorite author and express opinions about them).	7. Participate in shared research and writing projects (e.g., explore a number of “how-to” books on a given topic and use them to write a sequence of instructions).	7. Participate in shared research and writing projects (e.g., read a number of books on a single topic to produce a report; record science observations).
8. With guidance and support from adults, recall information from experiences or gather information from provided sources to answer a question.	8. With guidance and support from adults, recall information from experiences or gather information from provided sources to answer a question.	8. Recall information from experiences or gather information from provided sources to answer a question.
9. (Begins in grade 4)	9. (Begins in grade 4)	9. (Begins in grade 4)
Range of Writing		
10. (Begins in grade 3)	10. (Begins in grade 3)	10. (Begins in grade 3)

Writing Standards K-5

Grade 3 students:	Grade 4 students:	Grade 5 students:
Text Types and Purposes		
<p>1. Write opinion pieces on topics or texts, supporting a point of view with reasons.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Introduce the topic or text they are writing about, state an opinion, and create an organizational structure that lists reasons. b. Provide reasons that support the opinion. c. Use linking words and phrases (e.g., <i>because</i>, <i>therefore</i>, <i>since</i>, <i>for example</i>) to connect opinion and reasons. d. Provide a concluding statement or section. 	<p>1. Write opinion pieces on topics or texts, supporting a point of view with reasons and information.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Introduce a topic or text clearly, state an opinion, and create an organizational structure in which related ideas are grouped to support the writer's purpose. b. Provide reasons that are supported by facts and details. c. Link opinion and reasons using words and phrases (e.g., <i>for instance</i>, <i>in order to</i>, <i>in addition</i>). d. Provide a concluding statement or section related to the opinion presented. 	<p>1. Write opinion pieces on topics or texts, supporting a point of view with reasons and information.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Introduce a topic or text clearly, state an opinion, and create an organizational structure in which ideas are logically grouped to support the writer's purpose. b. Provide logically ordered reasons that are supported by facts and details. c. Link opinion and reasons using words, phrases, and clauses (e.g., <i>consequently</i>, <i>specifically</i>). d. Provide a concluding statement or section related to the opinion presented.
<p>2. Write informative/explanatory texts to examine a topic and convey ideas and information clearly.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Introduce a topic and group related information together; include illustrations when useful to aiding comprehension. b. Develop the topic with facts, definitions, and details. c. Use linking words and phrases (e.g., <i>also</i>, <i>another</i>, <i>and</i>, <i>more</i>, <i>but</i>) to connect ideas within categories of information. d. Provide a concluding statement or section. 	<p>2. Write informative/explanatory texts to examine a topic and convey ideas and information clearly.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Introduce a topic clearly and group related information in paragraphs and sections; include formatting (e.g., headings), illustrations, and multimedia when useful to aiding comprehension. b. Develop the topic with facts, definitions, concrete details, quotations, or other information and examples related to the topic. c. Link ideas within categories of information using words and phrases (e.g., <i>another</i>, <i>for example</i>, <i>also</i>, <i>because</i>). d. Use precise language and domain-specific vocabulary to inform about or explain the topic. e. Provide a concluding statement or section related to the information or explanation presented. 	<p>2. Write informative/explanatory texts to examine a topic and convey ideas and information clearly.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Introduce a topic clearly, provide a general observation and focus, and group related information logically; include formatting (e.g., headings), illustrations, and multimedia when useful to aiding comprehension. b. Develop the topic with facts, definitions, concrete details, quotations, or other information and examples related to the topic. c. Link ideas within and across categories of information using words, phrases, and clauses (e.g., <i>in contrast</i>, <i>especially</i>). d. Use precise language and domain-specific vocabulary to inform about or explain the topic. e. Provide a concluding statement or section related to the information or explanation presented.
<p>3. Write narratives to develop real or imagined experiences or events using effective technique, descriptive details, and clear event sequences.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Establish a situation and introduce a narrator and/or characters; organize an event sequence that unfolds naturally. b. Use dialogue and descriptions of actions, thoughts, and feelings to develop experiences and events or show the response of characters to situations. c. Use temporal words and phrases to signal event order. d. Provide a sense of closure. 	<p>3. Write narratives to develop real or imagined experiences or events using effective technique, descriptive details, and clear event sequences.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Orient the reader by establishing a situation and introducing a narrator and/or characters; organize an event sequence that unfolds naturally. b. Use dialogue and description to develop experiences and events or show the responses of characters to situations. c. Use a variety of transitional words and phrases to manage the sequence of events. d. Use concrete words and phrases and sensory details to convey experiences and events precisely. e. Provide a conclusion that follows from the narrated experiences or events. 	<p>3. Write narratives to develop real or imagined experiences or events using effective technique, descriptive details, and clear event sequences.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Orient the reader by establishing a situation and introducing a narrator and/or characters; organize an event sequence that unfolds naturally. b. Use narrative techniques, such as dialogue, description, and pacing, to develop experiences and events or show the responses of characters to situations. c. Use a variety of transitional words, phrases, and clauses to manage the sequence of events. d. Use concrete words and phrases and sensory details to convey experiences and events precisely. e. Provide a conclusion that follows from the narrated experiences or events.

Writing Standards K–5

Grade 3 students:		Grade 4 students:		Grade 5 students:	
Production and Distribution of Writing					
4.	With guidance and support from adults, produce writing in which the development and organization are appropriate to task and purpose. (Grade-specific expectations for writing types are defined in standards 1-3 above.)	4.	Produce clear and coherent writing in which the development and organization are appropriate to task, purpose, and audience. (Grade-specific expectations for writing types are defined in standards 1-3 above.)	4.	Produce clear and coherent writing in which the development and organization are appropriate to task, purpose, and audience. (Grade-specific expectations for writing types are defined in standards 1-3 above.)
5.	With guidance and support from peers and adults, develop and strengthen writing as needed by planning, revising, and editing. (Editing for conventions should demonstrate command of Language standards 1-3 up to and including grade 3 on pages 28 and 29.)	5.	With guidance and support from peers and adults, develop and strengthen writing as needed by planning, revising, and editing. (Editing for conventions should demonstrate command of Language standards 1-3 up to and including grade 4 on pages 28 and 29.)	5.	With guidance and support from peers and adults, develop and strengthen writing as needed by planning, revising, editing, rewriting, or trying a new approach. (Editing for conventions should demonstrate command of Language standards 1-3 up to and including grade 5 on pages 28 and 29.)
6.	With guidance and support from adults, use technology to produce and publish writing (using keyboarding skills) as well as to interact and collaborate with others.	6.	With some guidance and support from adults, use technology, including the Internet, to produce and publish writing as well as to interact and collaborate with others; demonstrate sufficient command of keyboarding skills to type a minimum of one page in a single sitting.	6.	With some guidance and support from adults, use technology, including the Internet, to produce and publish writing as well as to interact and collaborate with others; demonstrate sufficient command of keyboarding skills to type a minimum of two pages in a single sitting.
Research to Build and Present Knowledge					
7.	Conduct short research projects that build knowledge about a topic.	7.	Conduct short research projects that build knowledge through investigation of different aspects of a topic.	7.	Conduct short research projects that use several sources to build knowledge through investigation of different aspects of a topic.
8.	Recall information from experiences or gather information from print and digital sources; take brief notes on sources and sort evidence into provided categories.	8.	Recall relevant information from experiences or gather relevant information from print and digital sources; take notes and categorize information, and provide a list of sources.	8.	Recall relevant information from experiences or gather relevant information from print and digital sources; summarize or paraphrase information in notes and finished work, and provide a list of sources.
9.	(Begins in grade 4)	9.	Draw evidence from literary or informational texts to support analysis, reflection, and research. a. Apply <i>grade 4 Reading standards</i> to literature (e.g., "Describe in depth a character, setting, or event in a story or drama, drawing on specific details in the text [e.g., a character's thoughts, words, or actions]."). b. Apply <i>grade 4 Reading standards</i> to informational texts (e.g., "Explain how an author uses reasons and evidence to support particular points in a text").	9.	Draw evidence from literary or informational texts to support analysis, reflection, and research. a. Apply <i>grade 5 Reading standards</i> to literature (e.g., "Compare and contrast two or more characters, settings, or events in a story or a drama, drawing on specific details in the text [e.g., how characters interact]"). b. Apply <i>grade 5 Reading standards</i> to informational texts (e.g., "Explain how an author uses reasons and evidence to support particular points in a text, identifying which reasons and evidence support which point[s]").
Range of Writing					
10.	Write routinely over extended time frames (time for research, reflection, and revision) and shorter time frames (a single sitting or a day or two) for a range of discipline-specific tasks, purposes, and audiences.	10.	Write routinely over extended time frames (time for research, reflection, and revision) and shorter time frames (a single sitting or a day or two) for a range of discipline-specific tasks, purposes, and audiences.	10.	Write routinely over extended time frames (time for research, reflection, and revision) and shorter time frames (a single sitting or a day or two) for a range of discipline-specific tasks, purposes, and audiences.

College and Career Readiness Anchor Standards for Writing

The grades 6–12 standards on the following pages define what students should understand and be able to do by the end of each grade. They correspond to the College and Career Readiness (CCR) anchor standards below by number. The CCR and grade-specific standards are necessary complements—the former providing broad standards, the latter providing additional specificity—that together define the skills and understandings that all students must demonstrate.

Text Types and Purposes*

1. Write arguments to support claims in an analysis of substantive topics or texts, using valid reasoning and relevant and sufficient evidence.
2. Write informative/explanatory texts to examine and convey complex ideas and information clearly and accurately through the effective selection, organization, and analysis of content.
3. Write narratives to develop real or imagined experiences or events using effective technique, well-chosen details, and well-structured event sequences.

Production and Distribution of Writing

4. Produce clear and coherent writing in which the development, organization, and style are appropriate to task, purpose, and audience.
5. Develop and strengthen writing as needed by planning, revising, editing, rewriting, or trying a new approach.
6. Use technology, including the Internet, to produce and publish writing and to interact and collaborate with others.

Research to Build and Present Knowledge

7. Conduct short as well as more sustained research projects based on focused questions, demonstrating understanding of the subject under investigation.
8. Gather relevant information from multiple print and digital sources, assess the credibility and accuracy of each source, and integrate the information while avoiding plagiarism.
9. Draw evidence from literary or informational texts to support analysis, reflection, and research.

Range of Writing

10. Write routinely over extended time frames (time for research, reflection, and revision) and shorter time frames (a single sitting or a day or two) for a range of tasks, purposes, and audiences.

*These broad types of writing include many subgenres. See Appendix A for definitions of key writing types.

Note on range and content of student writing

For students, writing is a key means of asserting and defending claims, showing what they know about a subject, and conveying what they have experienced, imagined, thought, and felt. To be college- and career-ready writers, students must take task, purpose, and audience into careful consideration, choosing words, information, structures, and formats deliberately. They need to know how to combine elements of different kinds of writing—for example, to use narrative strategies within argument and explanation within narrative—to produce complex and nuanced writing. They need to be able to use technology strategically when creating, refining, and collaborating on writing. They have to become adept at gathering information, evaluating sources, and citing material accurately, reporting findings from their research and analysis of sources in a clear and cogent manner. They must have the flexibility, concentration, and fluency to produce high-quality first-draft text under a tight deadline as well as the capacity to revisit and make improvements to a piece of writing over multiple drafts when circumstances encourage or require it.

Writing Standards 6-12

W

The following standards for grades 6-12 offer a focus for instruction each year to help ensure that students gain adequate mastery of a range of skills and applications. Each year in their writing, students should demonstrate increasing sophistication in all aspects of language use, from vocabulary and syntax to the development and organization of ideas, and they should address increasingly demanding content and sources. *Students advancing through the grades are expected to meet each year's grade-specific standards and retain or further develop skills and understandings mastered in preceding grades.* The expected growth in student writing ability is reflected both in the standards themselves and in the collection of annotated student writing samples in Appendix C.

Grade 6 students:	Grade 7 students:	Grade 8 students:
Text Types and Purposes		
<ol style="list-style-type: none">Write arguments to support claims with clear reasons and relevant evidence.<ol style="list-style-type: none">Introduce claim(s) and organize the reasons and evidence clearly.Support claim(s) with clear reasons and relevant evidence, using credible sources and demonstrating an understanding of the topic or text.Use words, phrases, and clauses to clarify the relationships among claim(s) and reasons.Establish and maintain a formal style.Provide a concluding statement or section that follows from the argument presented.	<ol style="list-style-type: none">Write arguments to support claims with clear reasons and relevant evidence.<ol style="list-style-type: none">Introduce claim(s), acknowledge alternate or opposing claims, and organize the reasons and evidence logically.Support claim(s) with logical reasoning and relevant evidence, using accurate, credible sources and demonstrating an understanding of the topic or text.Use words, phrases, and clauses to create cohesion and clarify the relationships among claim(s), reasons, and evidence.Establish and maintain a formal style.Provide a concluding statement or section that follows from and supports the argument presented.	<ol style="list-style-type: none">Write arguments to support claims with clear reasons and relevant evidence.<ol style="list-style-type: none">Introduce claim(s), acknowledge and distinguish the claim(s) from alternate or opposing claims, and organize the reasons and evidence logically.Support claim(s) with logical reasoning and relevant evidence, using accurate, credible sources and demonstrating an understanding of the topic or text.Use words, phrases, and clauses to create cohesion and clarify the relationships among claim(s), counterclaims, reasons, and evidence.Establish and maintain a formal style.Provide a concluding statement or section that follows from and supports the argument presented.
<ol style="list-style-type: none">Write informative/explanatory texts to examine a topic and convey ideas, concepts, and information through the selection, organization, and analysis of relevant content.<ol style="list-style-type: none">Introduce a topic; organize ideas, concepts, and information, using strategies such as definition, classification, comparison/contrast, and cause/effect; include formatting (e.g., headings), graphics (e.g., charts, tables), and multimedia when useful to aiding comprehension.Develop the topic with relevant facts, definitions, concrete details, quotations, or other information and examples.Use appropriate transitions to clarify the relationships among ideas and concepts.Use precise language and domain-specific vocabulary to inform about or explain the topic.Establish and maintain a formal style.Provide a concluding statement or section that follows from the information or explanation presented.	<ol style="list-style-type: none">Write informative/explanatory texts to examine a topic and convey ideas, concepts, and information through the selection, organization, and analysis of relevant content.<ol style="list-style-type: none">Introduce a topic clearly, previewing what is to follow; organize ideas, concepts, and information, using strategies such as definition, classification, comparison/contrast, and cause/effect; include formatting (e.g., headings), graphics (e.g., charts, tables), and multimedia when useful to aiding comprehension.Develop the topic with relevant facts, definitions, concrete details, quotations, or other information and examples.Use appropriate transitions to create cohesion and clarify the relationships among ideas and concepts.Use precise language and domain-specific vocabulary to inform about or explain the topic.Establish and maintain a formal style.Provide a concluding statement or section that follows from and supports the information or explanation presented.	<ol style="list-style-type: none">Write informative/explanatory texts to examine a topic and convey ideas, concepts, and information through the selection, organization, and analysis of relevant content.<ol style="list-style-type: none">Introduce a topic clearly, previewing what is to follow; organize ideas, concepts, and information into broader categories; include formatting (e.g., headings), graphics (e.g., charts, tables), and multimedia when useful to aiding comprehension.Develop the topic with relevant, well-chosen facts, definitions, concrete details, quotations, or other information and examples.Use appropriate and varied transitions to create cohesion and clarify the relationships among ideas and concepts.Use precise language and domain-specific vocabulary to inform about or explain the topic.Establish and maintain a formal style.Provide a concluding statement or section that follows from and supports the information or explanation presented.

Writing Standards 6-12

Grade 6 students:	Grade 7 students:	Grade 8 students:
Text Types and Purposes (continued)		
<p>3. Write narratives to develop real or imagined experiences or events using effective technique, relevant descriptive details, and well-structured event sequences.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Engage and orient the reader by establishing a context and introducing a narrator and/or characters; organize an event sequence that unfolds naturally and logically. b. Use narrative techniques, such as dialogue, pacing, and description, to develop experiences, events, and/or characters. c. Use a variety of transition words, phrases, and clauses to convey sequence and signal shifts from one time frame or setting to another. d. Use precise words and phrases, relevant descriptive details, and sensory language to convey experiences and events. e. Provide a conclusion that follows from the narrated experiences or events. 	<p>3. Write narratives to develop real or imagined experiences or events using effective technique, relevant descriptive details, and well-structured event sequences.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Engage and orient the reader by establishing a context and point of view and introducing a narrator and/or characters; organize an event sequence that unfolds naturally and logically. b. Use narrative techniques, such as dialogue, pacing, and description, to develop experiences, events, and/or characters. c. Use a variety of transition words, phrases, and clauses to convey sequence and signal shifts from one time frame or setting to another. d. Use precise words and phrases, relevant descriptive details, and sensory language to capture the action and convey experiences and events. e. Provide a conclusion that follows from and reflects on the narrated experiences or events. 	<p>3. Write narratives to develop real or imagined experiences or events using effective technique, relevant descriptive details, and well-structured event sequences.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Engage and orient the reader by establishing a context and point of view and introducing a narrator and/or characters; organize an event sequence that unfolds naturally and logically. b. Use narrative techniques, such as dialogue, pacing, description, and reflection, to develop experiences, events, and/or characters. c. Use a variety of transition words, phrases, and clauses to convey sequence, signal shifts from one time frame or setting to another, and show the relationships among experiences and events. d. Use precise words and phrases, relevant descriptive details, and sensory language to capture the action and convey experiences and events. e. Provide a conclusion that follows from and reflects on the narrated experiences or events.
Production and Distribution of Writing		
<p>4. Produce clear and coherent writing in which the development, organization, and style are appropriate to task, purpose, and audience. (Grade-specific expectations for writing types are defined in standards 1-3 above.)</p> <p>5. With some guidance and support from peers and adults, develop and strengthen writing as needed by planning, revising, editing, rewriting, or trying a new approach. (Editing for conventions should demonstrate command of Language standards 1-3 up to and including grade 6 on page 52.)</p> <p>6. Use technology, including the Internet, to produce and publish writing as well as to interact and collaborate with others; demonstrate sufficient command of keyboarding skills to type a minimum of three pages in a single sitting.</p>	<p>4. Produce clear and coherent writing in which the development, organization, and style are appropriate to task, purpose, and audience. (Grade-specific expectations for writing types are defined in standards 1-3 above.)</p> <p>5. With some guidance and support from peers and adults, develop and strengthen writing as needed by planning, revising, editing, rewriting, or trying a new approach, focusing on how well purpose and audience have been addressed. (Editing for conventions should demonstrate command of Language standards 1-3 up to and including grade 7 on page 52.)</p> <p>6. Use technology, including the Internet, to produce and publish writing and link to and cite sources as well as to interact and collaborate with others, including linking to and citing sources.</p>	<p>4. Produce clear and coherent writing in which the development, organization, and style are appropriate to task, purpose, and audience. (Grade-specific expectations for writing types are defined in standards 1-3 above.)</p> <p>5. With some guidance and support from peers and adults, develop and strengthen writing as needed by planning, revising, editing, rewriting, or trying a new approach, focusing on how well purpose and audience have been addressed. (Editing for conventions should demonstrate command of Language standards 1-3 up to and including grade 8 on page 52.)</p> <p>6. Use technology, including the Internet, to produce and publish writing and present the relationships between information and ideas efficiently as well as to interact and collaborate with others.</p>

Writing Standards 6-12

Grade 6 students:	Grade 7 students:	Grade 8 students:
Research to Build and Present Knowledge		
7. Conduct short research projects to answer a question, drawing on several sources and refocusing the inquiry when appropriate.	7. Conduct short research projects to answer a question, drawing on several sources and generating additional related, focused questions for further research and investigation.	7. Conduct short research projects to answer a question (including a self-generated question), drawing on several sources and generating additional related, focused questions that allow for multiple avenues of exploration.
8. Gather relevant information from multiple print and digital sources; assess the credibility of each source; and quote or paraphrase the data and conclusions of others while avoiding plagiarism and providing basic bibliographic information for sources.	8. Gather relevant information from multiple print and digital sources, using search terms effectively; assess the credibility and accuracy of each source; and quote or paraphrase the data and conclusions of others while avoiding plagiarism and following a standard format for citation.	8. Gather relevant information from multiple print and digital sources, using search terms effectively; assess the credibility and accuracy of each source; and quote or paraphrase the data and conclusions of others while avoiding plagiarism and following a standard format for citation.
9. Draw evidence from literary or informational texts to support analysis, reflection, and research. <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Apply <i>grade 6 Reading standards</i> to literature (e.g., “Compare and contrast texts in different forms or genres [e.g., stories and poems; historical novels and fantasy stories] in terms of their approaches to similar themes and topics”). Apply <i>grade 6 Reading standards</i> to literary nonfiction (e.g., “Trace and evaluate the argument and specific claims in a text, distinguishing claims that are supported by reasons and evidence from claims that are not”). 	9. Draw evidence from literary or informational texts to support analysis, reflection, and research. <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Apply <i>grade 7 Reading standards</i> to literature (e.g., “Compare and contrast a fictional portrayal of a time, place, or character and a historical account of the same period as a means of understanding how authors of fiction use or alter history”). Apply <i>grade 7 Reading standards</i> to literary nonfiction (e.g., “Trace and evaluate the argument and specific claims in a text, assessing whether the reasoning is sound and the evidence is relevant and sufficient to support the claims”). 	9. Draw evidence from literary or informational texts to support analysis, reflection, and research. <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Apply <i>grade 8 Reading standards</i> to literature (e.g., “Analyze how a modern work of fiction draws on themes, patterns of events, or character types from myths, traditional stories, or religious works such as the Bible, including describing how the material is rendered new”). Apply <i>grade 8 Reading standards</i> to literary nonfiction (e.g., “Delineate and evaluate the argument and specific claims in a text, assessing whether the reasoning is sound and the evidence is relevant and sufficient; recognize when irrelevant evidence is introduced”).
Range of Writing		
10. Write routinely over extended time frames (time for research, reflection, and revision) and shorter time frames (a single sitting or a day or two) for a range of discipline-specific tasks, purposes, and audiences.	10. Write routinely over extended time frames (time for research, reflection, and revision) and shorter time frames (a single sitting or a day or two) for a range of discipline-specific tasks, purposes, and audiences.	10. Write routinely over extended time frames (time for research, reflection, and revision) and shorter time frames (a single sitting or a day or two) for a range of discipline-specific tasks, purposes, and audiences.

Writing Standards 6-12

W

The CCR anchor standards and high school grade-specific standards work in tandem to define college and career readiness expectations—the former providing broad standards, the latter providing additional specificity.

Grades 9–10 students:	Grades 11–12 students:
Text Types and Purposes	
<ol style="list-style-type: none">Write arguments to support claims in an analysis of substantive topics or texts, using valid reasoning and relevant and sufficient evidence.<ol style="list-style-type: none">Introduce precise claim(s), distinguish the claim(s) from alternate or opposing claims, and create an organization that establishes clear relationships among claim(s), counterclaims, reasons, and evidence.Develop claim(s) and counterclaims fairly, supplying evidence for each while pointing out the strengths and limitations of both in a manner that anticipates the audience’s knowledge level and concerns.Use words, phrases, and clauses to link the major sections of the text, create cohesion, and clarify the relationships between claim(s) and reasons, between reasons and evidence, and between claim(s) and counterclaims.Establish and maintain a formal style and objective tone while attending to the norms and conventions of the discipline in which they are writing.Provide a concluding statement or section that follows from and supports the argument presented.Write informative/explanatory texts to examine and convey complex ideas, concepts, and information clearly and accurately through the effective selection, organization, and analysis of content.<ol style="list-style-type: none">Introduce a topic; organize complex ideas, concepts, and information to make important connections and distinctions; include formatting (e.g., headings), graphics (e.g., figures, tables), and multimedia when useful to aiding comprehension.Develop the topic with well-chosen, relevant, and sufficient facts, extended definitions, concrete details, quotations, or other information and examples appropriate to the audience’s knowledge of the topic.Use appropriate and varied transitions to link the major sections of the text, create cohesion, and clarify the relationships among complex ideas and concepts.Use precise language and domain-specific vocabulary to manage the complexity of the topic.Establish and maintain a formal style and objective tone while attending to the norms and conventions of the discipline in which they are writing.Provide a concluding statement or section that follows from and supports the information or explanation presented (e.g., articulating implications or the significance of the topic).	<ol style="list-style-type: none">Write arguments to support claims in an analysis of substantive topics or texts, using valid reasoning and relevant and sufficient evidence.<ol style="list-style-type: none">Introduce precise, knowledgeable claim(s), establish the significance of the claim(s), distinguish the claim(s) from alternate or opposing claims, and create an organization that logically sequences claim(s), counterclaims, reasons, and evidence.Develop claim(s) and counterclaims fairly and thoroughly, supplying the most relevant evidence for each while pointing out the strengths and limitations of both in a manner that anticipates the audience’s knowledge level, concerns, values, and possible biases.Use words, phrases, and clauses as well as varied syntax to link the major sections of the text, create cohesion, and clarify the relationships between claim(s) and reasons, between reasons and evidence, and between claim(s) and counterclaims.Establish and maintain a formal style and objective tone while attending to the norms and conventions of the discipline in which they are writing.Provide a concluding statement or section that follows from and supports the argument presented.Write informative/explanatory texts to examine and convey complex ideas, concepts, and information clearly and accurately through the effective selection, organization, and analysis of content.<ol style="list-style-type: none">Introduce a topic; organize complex ideas, concepts, and information so that each new element builds on that which precedes it to create a unified whole; include formatting (e.g., headings), graphics (e.g., figures, tables), and multimedia when useful to aiding comprehension.Develop the topic thoroughly by selecting the most significant and relevant facts, extended definitions, concrete details, quotations, or other information and examples appropriate to the audience’s knowledge of the topic.Use appropriate and varied transitions and syntax to link the major sections of the text, create cohesion, and clarify the relationships among complex ideas and concepts.Use precise language, domain-specific vocabulary, and techniques such as metaphor, simile, and analogy to manage the complexity of the topic.Establish and maintain a formal style and objective tone while attending to the norms and conventions of the discipline in which they are writing.Provide a concluding statement or section that follows from and supports the information or explanation presented (e.g., articulating implications or the significance of the topic).

Writing Standards 6-12

Grades 9–10 students:

Grades 11–12 students:

Text Types and Purposes (continued)

- | | |
|--|--|
| <p>3. Write narratives to develop real or imagined experiences or events using effective technique, well-chosen details, and well-structured event sequences.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Engage and orient the reader by setting out a problem, situation, or observation, establishing one or multiple point(s) of view, and introducing a narrator and/or characters; create a smooth progression of experiences or events. b. Use narrative techniques, such as dialogue, pacing, description, reflection, and multiple plot lines, to develop experiences, events, and/or characters. c. Use a variety of techniques to sequence events so that they build on one another to create a coherent whole. d. Use precise words and phrases, telling details, and sensory language to convey a vivid picture of the experiences, events, setting, and/or characters. e. Provide a conclusion that follows from and reflects on what is experienced, observed, or resolved over the course of the narrative. | <p>3. Write narratives to develop real or imagined experiences or events using effective technique, well-chosen details, and well-structured event sequences.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Engage and orient the reader by setting out a problem, situation, or observation and its significance, establishing one or multiple point(s) of view, and introducing a narrator and/or characters; create a smooth progression of experiences or events. b. Use narrative techniques, such as dialogue, pacing, description, reflection, and multiple plot lines, to develop experiences, events, and/or characters. c. Use a variety of techniques to sequence events so that they build on one another to create a coherent whole and build toward a particular tone and outcome (e.g., a sense of mystery, suspense, growth, or resolution). d. Use precise words and phrases, telling details, and sensory language to convey a vivid picture of the experiences, events, setting, and/or characters. e. Provide a conclusion that follows from and reflects on what is experienced, observed, or resolved over the course of the narrative. |
|--|--|

Production and Distribution of Writing

- | | |
|---|--|
| <p>4. Produce clear and coherent writing in which the development, organization, and style are appropriate to task, purpose, and audience. (Grade-specific expectations for writing types are defined in standards 1–3 above.)</p> | <p>4. Produce clear and coherent writing in which the development, organization, and style are appropriate to task, purpose, and audience. (Grade-specific expectations for writing types are defined in standards 1–3 above.)</p> |
| <p>5. Develop and strengthen writing as needed by planning, revising, editing, rewriting, or trying a new approach, focusing on addressing what is most significant for a specific purpose and audience. (Editing for conventions should demonstrate command of Language standards 1–3 up to and including grades 9–10 on page 54.)</p> | <p>5. Develop and strengthen writing as needed by planning, revising, editing, rewriting, or trying a new approach, focusing on addressing what is most significant for a specific purpose and audience. (Editing for conventions should demonstrate command of Language standards 1–3 up to and including grades 11–12 on page 54.)</p> |
| <p>6. Use technology, including the Internet, to produce, publish, and update individual or shared writing products, taking advantage of technology's capacity to link to other information and to display information flexibly and dynamically.</p> | <p>6. Use technology, including the Internet, to produce, publish, and update individual or shared writing products in response to ongoing feedback, including new arguments or information.</p> |

Research to Build and Present Knowledge

- | | |
|---|--|
| <p>7. Conduct short as well as more sustained research projects to answer a question (including a self-generated question) or solve a problem; narrow or broaden the inquiry when appropriate; synthesize multiple sources on the subject, demonstrating understanding of the subject under investigation.</p> | <p>7. Conduct short as well as more sustained research projects to answer a question (including a self-generated question) or solve a problem; narrow or broaden the inquiry when appropriate; synthesize multiple sources on the subject, demonstrating understanding of the subject under investigation.</p> |
| <p>8. Gather relevant information from multiple authoritative print and digital sources, using advanced searches effectively; assess the usefulness of each source in answering the research question; integrate information into the text selectively to maintain the flow of ideas, avoiding plagiarism and following a standard format for citation.</p> | <p>8. Gather relevant information from multiple authoritative print and digital sources, using advanced searches effectively; assess the strengths and limitations of each source in terms of the task, purpose, and audience; integrate information into the text selectively to maintain the flow of ideas, avoiding plagiarism and overreliance on any one source and following a standard format for citation.</p> |