

WRITING PROGRESSIONS

This chart identifies the writing skills students should demonstrate proficiency with in each grade level. Each grade builds on the previous grade. Teachers should reinforce the skills from the earlier grades while focusing their teaching on the skills new to the grade level.

Second Grade	Third Grade	Fourth Grade	Fifth Grade	Sixth Grade	Seventh Grade	Eighth Grade	Ninth/Tenth Grades
WRITING STANDARD 1: OPINION OR ARGUMENT WRITING							
Opinion paragraph Provide opinion with reasons	Multiparagraph opinion essay on topics or texts Develop a point of view with reasons and information		Multipage argument Develop claims with clear reasons and relevant evidence		Arguments analyzing substantive topics or texts Develop claims using valid reasoning and relevant and sufficient evidence		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Introduce a topic or text and state an opinion Supply reasons that support the opinion Use linking words such as <i>because</i>, <i>and</i>, and <i>also</i> Provide a concluding statement or section 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop a point of view on a topic or text with reasons (W.3.1a) Create an organizational structure for reasons (W.3.1a) Use linking words and phrases such as <i>therefore</i>, <i>since</i>, and <i>for example</i> (W.3.1c) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Introduce a topic or text clearly and state the purpose for writing by including a main idea sentence/ organizing idea statement/thesis statement (W.4.1a) Create an organizational structure which groups ideas based on the purpose (W.4.1a) Link opinions and reasons using words and phrases such as <i>for instance</i>, <i>in order to</i>, and <i>in addition</i> (W.4.1c) Provide a conclusion that relates to the purpose for writing (W.4.1d) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Logically group ideas to support the purpose (W.5.1a) Provide logically ordered reasons that are supported by facts and details (W.5.1b) Link opinions and reasons using words, phrases, and clauses such as <i>consequently</i> and <i>specifically</i> (W.5.1c) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Introduce claim(s) and organize the reasons and evidence clearly (W.6.1a) Support claim(s) with clear reasons and relevant evidence (W.6.1b) Use credible sources (W.6.1b) Demonstrate understanding of the topic or text (W.6.1b) Use words, phrases, and clauses to clarify the relationships among claim(s) and reasons (W.6.1c) Establish and maintain a formal style (W.6.1d) Provide a conclusion that follows from the argument presented (W.6.1e) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Acknowledge alternate or opposing claims (W.7.1a) Organize reasons and evidence logically (W.7.1a) Support claim(s) with logical reasoning and relevant evidence (W.7.1b) Use accurate and credible sources (W.7.1b) Use words, phrases, and clauses to create cohesion (W.7.1c) Provide a conclusion that supports the argument presented (W.7.1e) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Distinguish the claim(s) from alternate or opposing claims (W.8.1a) Use words, phrases, and clauses to clarify the relationships among claim(s), counterclaims, reasons, and evidence (W.8.1c) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Create an organization that establishes clear relationships among claim(s), counterclaims, reasons, and evidence (W.9-10.1a) 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 (W.9-10.1b) Use words, phrases, and clauses to link the major sections of the writing (W.9-10.1c) Establish and maintain a formal style and an objective tone while attending to the norms and conventions of the discipline (W.9-10.1d)

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WRITING STANDARD 2: INFORMATIVE OR EXPLANATORY WRITING							
<p>Explanatory paragraph</p> <p>Provide points with facts and details</p>	<p>Multiparagraph informative/explanatory essay</p> <p>Examine a topic</p> <p>Convey ideas and information clearly</p>			<p>Multipage informative/explanatory essay</p> <p>Examine a topic and convey ideas, concepts, and information through the selection, organization, and analysis of relevant content</p>			<p>Multipage informative/explanatory essay</p> <p>Examine and convey complex ideas, concepts, and information clearly and accurately through the effective selection, organization, and analysis of content</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introduce a topic (W.2.2) • Use facts and definitions to develop points (W.2.2) • Provide a concluding statement or section (W.2.2) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Group related information together (W.3.2a) • Include illustrations when useful (W.3.2a) • Develop topic with facts, definitions, and details (W.3.2b) • Connect ideas within categories (W.3.2c) • Use linking words and phrases such as <i>also</i>, <i>another</i>, <i>and</i>, <i>more</i>, and <i>but</i> (W.3.2c) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Group related information together in paragraphs/ sections (W.4.2a) • Include headings and multimedia when useful (W.4.2a) • Develop topic with quotations or other related information or examples (W.4.2b) • Use linking words and phrases such as <i>for example</i>, <i>also</i>, and <i>because</i> (W.4.2c) • Use precise language and domain-specific vocabulary to inform about or explain the topic (W.4.2d) • Provide a conclusion that relates to the information or explanation (W.4.2e) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introduce a topic clearly (W.5.2a) • Provide a general observation and focus which includes the purpose for writing (W.5.2a) • Group related information logically based on the purpose (W.5.2a) • Link ideas within and across categories of information using words, phrases, and clauses such as <i>in contrast</i>, and <i>especially</i> (W.5.2c) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use organizational strategies (e.g., definition, classification, comparison/contrast, cause/effect) (W.6.2a) • Include graphics such as charts and tables when useful (W.6.2a) • Develop the topic with relevant support (W.6.2b) • Use appropriate transitions to clarify the relationships among ideas and concepts (W.6.2c) • Establish and maintain a formal style (W.6.2e) • Provide a conclusion that follows from the information or explanation presented (W.6.2f) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Preview what is to follow (W.7.2a) • Use appropriate transitions to create cohesion (W.7.2c) • Provide a conclusion that supports the information or explanation presented (W.7.2f) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Organize ideas, concepts, and information into broader categories (W.8.2a) • Develop the topic with well-chosen support (W.8.2b) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Organize complex ideas, concepts, and information to make important connections and distinctions (W.9-10.2a) • Include graphics such as figures and tables when useful (W.9-10.2a) • Develop the topic with well-chosen and sufficient support appropriate to the audience’s knowledge of the topic (W.9-10.2b) • Use appropriate and varied transitions to link the major sections of the text (W.9-10.2c) • Establish and maintain an objective tone (W.9-10.2e) • Articulate implications or the significance of the topic in the conclusion (W.9-10.2f)