

Writing Standards PreK-12

Writing Standard Text #1 Text Types and Purposes

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

Grade PreK: Dictate words to express a preference or opinion about a topic (e.g., “I would like to go to the fire station to see the truck and meet the firemen.”).

Grade K: Use a combination of drawing, dictating, and writing to compose opinion pieces that 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., *My favorite book is...*).

Grade 1: Write opinion pieces that 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.

Grade 2: Write opinion pieces that introduce the topic or book they are writing about, state an opinion, supply reasons that support the opinion, use linking words (e.g., *because, and, also*) to connect opinion and reasons, and provide a concluding statement or section.

Grade 3: Write opinion pieces on topics or texts, supporting an opinion with reasons.

- 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., *because, therefore, since, for example*) to connect opinion and reasons.
- d. Provide a concluding statement or section.

Grade 4: Write opinion pieces on topics or texts, supporting a point of view with reasons and information.

- a. Introduce a topic or text clearly, state an opinion, and create an organizational structure in which related ideas are grouped in paragraphs and sections 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., *for instance, in order to, in addition*).
- d. Provide a concluding statement or section related to the opinion presented.

Grade 5: Write opinion pieces on topics or texts, supporting a point of view with reasons and information.

- a. Introduce a topic or text clearly, state an opinion, and create an organizational structure in which ideas are logically grouped in paragraphs and sections 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., *consequently, specifically*).
- d. Provide a concluding statement or section related to the opinion presented.

Grade 6: Write arguments (e.g., essays, letters to the editor, advocacy speeches) to support claims with clear reasons and relevant evidence.

- a. Introduce claim(s) and organize the reasons and evidence clearly in paragraphs and sections.
- b. Support claim(s) with clear reasons and relevant evidence, using credible sources and demonstrating an understanding of the topic or text.
- c. Use words, phrases, and clauses to clarify the relationships among claim(s) and reasons.
- d. Establish and maintain a style appropriate to audience and purpose (e.g., formal for academic writing).
- e. Provide a concluding statement or section that follows from the argument presented.

Writing Standard Text #2

Text Types and Purposes

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

Grade PreK: Use a combination of dictating and drawing to supply information about a topic.

Grade K: Use a combination of drawing, dictating, and writing to compose informative/explanatory texts that name and supply some information about a topic.

Grade 1: Write informative/explanatory texts that name a topic, supply some facts about the topic, and provide some sense of closure.

Grade 2: Write informative/explanatory texts that introduce a topic, use facts and definitions to develop points, and provide a concluding statement or section.

Grade 3: Write informative/explanatory texts to examine a topic and convey ideas and information clearly.

- 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., *also, another, and, more, but*) to connect ideas within categories of information.
- d. Provide a concluding statement or section.

Grade 4: Write informative/explanatory texts to examine a topic and convey ideas and information clearly.

- a. Introduce a topic clearly and group related information in paragraphs and sections; include text features (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., *another, for example, also, because*).
- 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.

Grade 5: Write informative/explanatory texts to examine a topic and convey ideas and information clearly.

- a. Introduce a topic clearly, provide a general observation and focus, and group related information logically in paragraphs and sections; include text features (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., *in contrast, especially*).
- 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.

Writing Standard Text #3

Text Types and Purposes

Write narratives to develop experiences or events using effective literary techniques, well-chosen details, and well-structured sequences.

Grade PreK: Use a combination of dictating and drawing to tell a story.

Grade K: Use a combination of drawing, dictating, and writing to narrate a single event or experience, or several loosely linked events or experiences; sequence the narrative appropriately and provide a reaction to what it describes.

a. For poems, use rhyming words to create structure. (See kindergarten Reading Foundational Skills Standard 2a.)

Grade 1: Write narratives in prose or poem form that recount two or more appropriately sequenced events or experiences, include some details about what happened or was experienced, use temporal words to signal order where appropriate, and provide some sense of closure.

a. For poems, use rhyming words and words that repeat long or short vowel sounds to create structure (see grade 1 Reading Foundational Skills Standard 2a).

Grade 2: Write narratives in prose or poem form that recount a well-elaborated event or experience, or a set of events or experiences; include details and dialogue to show actions, thoughts, and feelings; use temporal words to signal order where appropriate; and provide a sense of closure.

a. For poems, use words and phrases that form patterns of sounds (e.g., regular beats, alliteration, end rhymes, repeated sounds in words or lines) to create structure. (See grade 2 Reading Literature Standard 4.)

Grade 3: Write narratives in prose or poem form to develop experiences or events using effective literary techniques, descriptive details, and clear sequences.

a. Establish a situation and introduce a speaker, narrator, and/or characters; organize an appropriate narrative sequence.

b. Use dialogue and descriptions of actions, thoughts, and feelings to develop experiences or events or show responses to situations.

c. Use figurative language to suggest images. (See grade 3 Reading Literature Standard 4.)

d. Use temporal words and phrases to signal order where appropriate.

e. Provide a sense of closure.

f. For poems, use words and phrases that form patterns of sound (e.g., rhyme, repetition of sounds within words or within lines) to create meaning or effect.

Grade 4: Write narratives in prose or poem form to develop experiences or events using effective literary techniques, descriptive details, and clear sequences.

a. Orient the reader by establishing a situation and introducing a speaker, narrator, and/or characters; organize an appropriate narrative sequence.

b. Use dialogue and description to develop experiences or events or show responses to situations.

c. Use a variety of transitional words and phrases to manage sequence.

d. Use concrete words and phrases, figurative language such as similes and metaphors, and sensory details to convey experiences or events precisely.

e. Provide a sense of closure appropriate to the narrated experiences or events.

f. For poems, use patterns of sound (e.g., rhyme, rhythm, alliteration, consonance) and visual patterns (e.g., line length, grouped lines as stanzas or verses) to create works that are distinctly different in form from prose narratives. (See grade 4 Reading Literature Standard 5.)

Writing Standard #4

Production and Distribution of Writing

Produce clear and coherent writing in which the development, organization, and style are appropriate to task, purpose, and audience.

Grade PreK: Begins in grade 1.

Grade K: Begins in grade 1.

Grade 1: Produce 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.)

Grade 2: Produce 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.)

Grade 3: Produce 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.)

Grade 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.)

Grade 5: 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.)

Grade 6: 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.)

Grade 7: 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.)

Grade 8: 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.)

Grade 9-10: 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.)

Grade 11-12: 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.)

Writing Standard #5

Production and Distribution of Writing

Develop and strengthen writing as needed by planning, revising, editing, rewriting, or trying a new approach.

Grade Pre K: Begins in kindergarten or when the individual child is ready.

Grade K: With guidance and support from adults, respond to questions and suggestions from peers and add details to strengthen writing as needed.

- a. (Begins in grade 3.)
- b. Demonstrate the ability to use vocabulary appropriate for kindergarten (as described in kindergarten Language Standards 4–6).

Grade 1: 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.

- a. (Begins in grade 3.)
- b. Demonstrate the ability to choose and use appropriate vocabulary (as described in Language Standards 4–6 up to and including grade 1).

Grade 2: With guidance and support from adults and peers, focus on a topic and strengthen writing as needed by revising and editing.

- a. (Begins in grade 3.)
- b. Demonstrate the ability to choose and use appropriate vocabulary (as described in Language Standards 4–6 up to and including grade 2).

Grade 3: Develop and strengthen writing as needed by planning, revising, and editing.

- a. Demonstrate command of standard English conventions (as described in Language Standards 1–3 up to and including grade 3).
- b. Demonstrate the ability to choose and use appropriate vocabulary (as described in Language Standards 4–6 up to and including grade 3).

Grade 4: Develop and strengthen writing as needed by planning, revising, and editing.

- a. Demonstrate command of standard English conventions (as described in Language Standards 1–3 up to and including grade 4).
- b. Demonstrate the ability to use general academic and domain-specific vocabulary appropriately (as described in Language Standards 4–6 up to and including grade 4).

Grade 5: Develop and strengthen writing as needed by planning, revising, editing, rewriting, or trying a new approach.

- a. Demonstrate command of standard English conventions (as described in Language Standards 1–3 up to and including grade 5).
- b. Demonstrate the ability to use general academic and domain-specific vocabulary appropriately (as described in Language Standards 4–6 up to and including grade 5).

Grade 6: Develop and strengthen writing as needed by planning, revising, editing, rewriting, or trying a new approach.

- a. Demonstrate command of standard English conventions (as described in Language Standards 1–3 up to and including grade 6).
- b. Demonstrate the ability to select accurate vocabulary (as described in Language Standards 4–6 up to and including grade 6).

Grade 7: 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.

- a. Demonstrate command of standard English conventions (as described in Language Standards 1–3 up to and including grade 7).

Writing Standard #6
Production and Distribution of Writing

Use technology to produce and publish writing and to interact and collaborate with others.

Grade PreK: Recognize that digital tools (e.g., computers, mobile phones, cameras) are used for communication and, with guidance and support, use them to convey messages in pictures and/or words.

Grade K: With guidance and support from adults, explore a variety of digital tools to produce and publish writing, including collaboration with peers.

Grade 1: With guidance and support from adults, use a variety of digital tools to produce and publish writing, including in collaboration with peers.

Grade 2: With guidance and support from adults, use a variety of digital tools to produce and publish writing, including in collaboration with peers.

Grade 3: Use technology to produce and publish writing (using keyboarding skills) as well as to interact and collaborate with others.

Grade 4: Use technology, including current web-based communication platforms, 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.

Grade 5: Use technology, including current web-based communication platforms, 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.

Grade 6: Use technology, including current web-based communication platforms, 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.

Grade 7: Use technology, including current web-based communication platforms, to produce and publish writing and link to and cite sources as well as to interact and collaborate with others.

Grade 8: Use technology, including current web-based communication platforms, to produce and publish writing and present the relationships between information and ideas efficiently as well as to interact and collaborate with others.

Grade 9-10: Use technology, including current web-based communication platforms, 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.

Grade 11-12: Use technology, including current web-based communication platforms, to produce, publish, and update individual or shared writing products in response to ongoing feedback, including new arguments or information.

Writing Standard #7
Research to Build and Present Knowledge

Conduct short as well as more sustained research projects based on focused questions, demonstrating understanding of the subject under investigation.

Grade PreK: Begins in kindergarten or when the individual child is ready.

Grade K: Participate in shared research and writing projects (e.g., explore a number of books by a favorite author and express opinions about them).

Grade 1: 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).

Grade 2: 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).

Grade 3: Conduct short research projects that build knowledge about a topic.

Grade 4: Conduct short research projects that build knowledge through investigation of different aspects of a topic.

Grade 5: Conduct short research projects that use several sources to build knowledge through investigation of different aspects of a topic.

Grade 6: Conduct short as well as more sustained research projects to answer a question, drawing on several sources and refocusing the inquiry when appropriate.

Grade 7: Conduct short as well as more sustained research projects to answer a question, drawing on several sources and generating additional related, focused questions for further research and investigation.

Grade 8: Conduct short as well as more sustained 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.

Grade 9-10: 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.

Grade 11-12: 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.

Writing Standard #8

Research to Build and Present Knowledge

When conducting research, gather relevant information from multiple print and digital sources, assess the credibility and accuracy of each source, and integrate the information while avoiding plagiarism.

Grade PreK: Begins in kindergarten or when the individual child is ready.

Grade K: With guidance and support from adults, recall information from experiences or gather information from provided sources to answer a question.

Grade 1: With guidance and support from adults, recall information from experiences or gather information from provided sources to answer a question.

Grade 2: Recall information from experiences or gather information from provided sources to answer a question.

Grade 3: Recall information from experiences or gather information from print and digital sources; take brief notes on sources and sort evidence into provided categories.

Grade 4: 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.

Grade 5: 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.

Grade 6: When conducting research, 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.

Grade 7: When conducting research, 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.

Grade 8: When conducting research, 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.

Grade 9-10: When conducting research, 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.

Grade 11-12: When conducting research, 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.

Writing Standard #9
Research to Build and Present Knowledge

Draw evidence from literary or informational texts to support analysis, interpretation, reflection, and research.

Grade PreK: Begins in grade 4.

Grade K: Begins in grade 4.

Grade 1: Begins in grade 4.

Grade 2: Begins in grade 4.

Grade 3: Begins in grade 4.

Grade 4: Draw evidence from literary or informational texts to support written analysis, reflection, and research, applying one or more grade 4 standards for Reading Literature or Reading Informational Text as needed.

Grade 5: Draw evidence from literary or informational texts to support written analysis, reflection, and research, applying one or more grade 5 standards for Reading Literature or Reading Informational Text as needed.

Grade 6: Draw evidence from literary or informational texts to support written analysis, interpretation, reflection, and research, applying one or more grade 6 standards for Reading Literature or Reading Informational Text as needed.

Grade 7: Draw evidence from literary or informational texts to support written analysis, interpretation, reflection, and research, applying one or more grade 7 Standards for Reading Literature or Reading Informational Text as needed.

Grade 8: Draw evidence from literary or informational texts to support written analysis, interpretation, reflection, and research, applying one or more grade 8 standards for Reading Literature or Reading Informational Text as needed.

Grade 9-10: Draw evidence from literary or informational texts to support written analysis, interpretation, reflection, and research, applying one or more grades 9–10 Standards for Reading Literature or Reading Informational Text as needed.

Grade 11-12: Draw evidence from literary or informational texts to support written analysis, interpretation, reflection, and research, applying one or more grades 11–12 standards for Reading Literature or Reading Informational Text as needed.

Writing Standard #10

Range of Writing

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.

Grade PreK: Begins in kindergarten or when the individual child is ready.

Grade K: Write or dictate writing routinely for a range of tasks, purposes, and audiences.

Grade 1: Write routinely for a range of tasks, purposes, and audiences.

Grade 2: Write routinely for a range of tasks, purposes, and audiences.

Grade 3: 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.

Grade 4: 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.

Grade 5: 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.

Grade 6: 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.

Grade 7: 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.

Grade 8: 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.

Grade 9-10: 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.

Grade 11-12: 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.