

Writing Standards

GRADE 8



Learning Outcome: Students compose writing and presentations for various genres which demonstrate a command of English grammar and usage through the writing and research processes.

Standard Code	Standard	Top Score Writing Lessons
8.W.1	Write arguments in a variety of forms that:	Lessons 47-73, 99, 101, 104
	a. Introduce claim(s), acknowledge and distinguish the claim(s) from alternate or opposing claims, and organize the reasons and evidence logically.	Lessons 49-52
	b. Support claim(s) with logical reasoning and relevant evidence, using accurate, credible sources and demonstrating an understanding of the topic or text.	Lessons 53-56, 58-62, 64-67, 104
	c. Use effective transitions to create cohesion and clarify the relationships among claim(s), counterclaims, reasons, and evidence.	Lessons 57
	d. Establish and maintain a consistent style and tone appropriate for the purpose and audience.	Lessons 47-73
	e. Provide a concluding statement or section that follows and supports the argument presented. (E)	Lessons 63, 68
8.W.2	Write informative compositions in a variety of forms that:	Lessons 21-46, 100, 102-103
	a. 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 aid comprehension.	Lessons 23-26
	b. Develop the topic with relevant, well-chosen facts, definitions, concrete details, quotations, or other information and examples from various sources and texts.	Lessons 27-29, 31-35, 37-38, 103
	c. Use appropriate and varied transitions to create cohesion and clarify the relationships among ideas and concepts.	Lessons 30, 41
	d. Use precise words and phrases, relevant descriptive details, and sensory language to capture the action and convey experiences and events.	Teacher-directed
	e. Establish and maintain a style appropriate for the purpose and audience.	Lessons 21-46
	f. Provide a concluding statement or section that follows and supports the information or explanation presented. (E)	Lessons 36, 39-40

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8.W.3	Write narrative compositions in a variety of forms that:	Lessons 74-94
	a. Engage and orient the reader by establishing a context and point of view and introducing a narrator and/or characters.	Lessons 76-77,
	b. Organize an event sequence (e.g., conflict, climax, resolution) that unfolds naturally and logically, using a variety of transition words, phrases, and clauses to convey sequence and signal shifts from one time frame or setting to another.	Lessons 75, 78-80, 91
	c. Use narrative techniques, such as dialogue, pacing, description, and reflection, to develop experiences, events, and/or characters.	Lesson 79
	d. Use precise words and phrases, relevant descriptive details, and sensory language to capture the action and convey experiences and events.	Teacher-directed
	e. Provide an ending that follows and reflects on the narrated experiences or events. (E)	Lessons 81, 92
8.W.4	Apply the writing process to all formal writing, including but not limited to argumentative, informative, and narrative:	Lessons 1-4, 10, 19, 21-24, 43, 45-50, 70, 72-75, 83, 85, 87-88, 95
	a. Plan and develop, draft, and revise writing using appropriate reference materials. Rewrite, try a new approach, and edit to produce and strengthen writing that is clear and coherent with some guidance and support from peers and adults.	
	b. Use technology to interact and collaborate with others to generate, produce, and publish writing and present information and ideas efficiently.	Teacher-directed
8.W.5	Conduct research assignments and tasks to build knowledge about the research process and the topic under study.	Teacher-directed using text sets
	a. Formulate a research question.	
	b. Gather relevant information from multiple sources, using search terms effectively, and annotate sources.	
	c. Assess the credibility and accuracy of each source.	
	d. Quote or paraphrase the information and conclusions of others.	
	e. Avoid plagiarism and follow a standard format for citation.	
	f. Present information, choosing from a variety of formats. (E)	

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8.W.6	Demonstrate command of English grammar and usage, focusing on: a. Verbs – Explaining the function of verbals (e.g., gerunds, participles, infinitives) in general and their function in particular sentences; forming and using active and passive voice; recognizing and correcting inappropriate shifts in verb voice. (E)	Grammar: Pages 19-25, 59-60, 66-77, 121-126
8.W.7	Demonstrate command of the conventions of standard English capitalization, punctuation, and spelling, focusing on: a. Punctuation – Using punctuation (e.g., comma, ellipsis, dash) to indicate a pause, break, or omission. (E)	Grammar: Pages 84-93, 103-109