

Writing Standards

GRADE 8



Style: Writing style includes different types of writing for different purposes.

Standard Code	Standard	Top Score Writing Lessons
8.W.1.S	Compose an argument using clear reasons and supporting evidence.	Lessons 47-73, 99, 101
	• Introduce claims supported by credible sources.	Lessons 51-52
	• Distinguish alternate or opposing claims.	Lessons 56, 64-65
	• Maintain a cohesive structure.	Lessons 47-73
8.W.2.S	Write to inform about a topic.	Lessons 21-46, 100, 102
	• Introduce a topic with a clear preview of what is to follow.	Lessons 25-26
	• Organize ideas, concepts, and information using broad categories.	Lessons 23-24
	• Select well-chosen facts, definitions, concrete details, quotations, and examples.	Lessons 31-35
	• Maintain a cohesive structure, clarifying the relationships among the ideas, concepts, and information.	Lessons 21-46
8.W.3.S	Write to express real or imagined experiences and/or events.	Lessons 74-94
	• Develop a topic, context, narrative elements, and point of view and/or perspective.	Lessons 75-77, 89, 93
	• Select well-chosen, descriptive details and use sensory language and precise language.	Lessons 78-81
	• Develop well-structured event sequences to show the relationships among ideas and experiences.	Lessons 75-81, 91
	• Use narrative techniques effectively, utilizing dialogue, pacing, sensory language, and description.	Lessons 75-81, 89-91

Production: Writing production includes volume and clarity of writing and the writing process.

Standard Code	Standard	Top Score Writing Lessons
8.W.4.P	Construct clear and coherent writing in which the development, organization, and style are appropriate to the task, purpose, and audience.	Lessons 1-106

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8.W.5.P	Organize writing logically, composing an introduction, body, conclusion, and/or reflection when appropriate.	Lessons 2-8, 11-12, 14, 23-40, 49-68, 75-82
8.W.6.P	Use a variety of sentence types effectively.	Lessons 1-106
8.W.7.P	Choose precise words, phrases, and clauses to clarify relationships among ideas, claims, counterclaims, reasons, and/or evidence.	Lessons 17, 30, 41, 57, 79
8.W.8.P	Choose a variety of transition words, phrases, and clauses effectively to connect ideas.	Lessons 17, 41, 79
8.W.9.P	Develop writing stamina during single sessions and over extended periods of time.	Lessons 1-106
8.W.10.P	Increase independent writing with support and collaboration from peers and adults, employing the stages of the writing process (e.g., draft, revise, edit) with a focus on purpose and audience.	Lessons 1-4, 10, 19, 21-24, 43, 45-46, 47-50, 70, 72-73, 75, 83, 85, 87, 95
8.W.11.P	Include headings, graphics, and various multimedia to support ideas and information.	N/A
8.W.12.P	Maintain formal style when appropriate, editing writing to include grade-appropriate conventions for publishing.	Lessons 1-106

Research: Research includes identifying a topic, gathering information, and assessing sources.

Standard Code	Standard	Top Score Writing Lessons
8.W.13.R	Conduct research to explore a topic, describe an idea, and/or answer a question, refocusing the inquiry to generate further questions or to allow for multiple avenues of exploration.	Passage Sets
8.W.14.R	Assess the credibility and accuracy of sources.	Lessons 27-28, 53-54
8.W.15.R	Avoid plagiarism when quoting or paraphrasing data and conclusions, crediting sources and/or authors.	Lessons 27-28, 53-54
8.W.16.R	Follow a standard format for citation, including works cited/references.	Lessons 27-28, 53-54