

Writing Standards

GRADE 8



Text Types and Purposes

Standard Code	Standard	Top Score Writing Lessons
W.8.1	Write arguments to support claims with clear reasons and relevant evidence.	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, 57
	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
	c. Use words, phrases, and clauses to create cohesion and clarify the relationships among claim(s), counterclaims, reasons, and evidence.	Lessons 57, 63
	d. Establish and maintain a formal style.	Lessons 51-69, 71
	e. Provide a concluding statement or section that follows from and supports the argument presented.	Lessons 63, 68
W.8.2	Write informative/explanatory texts including career development documents (e.g. simple business letters and job applications) to examine a topic and convey ideas, concepts, and information through the selection, organization, and analysis of relevant content.	Lessons 21-46, 100, 102-103
	a. Introduce a topic or thesis statement 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.	Lessons 23-26, 30
	b. Develop the topic with well-chosen, relevant facts, definitions, concrete details, quotations, or other information and examples.	Lessons 27-29, 31-38
	c. Use appropriate and varied transitions to create cohesion and clarify the relationships among ideas and concepts.	Lessons 30, 36, 41
	d. Use precise language and domain-specific vocabulary to inform about or explain the topic.	Lessons 31-35, 37-38
	e. Establish and maintain a formal style.	Lessons 25-42, 44
	f. Provide a concluding statement or section that follows from and supports the information or explanation presented.	Lessons 36, 39-40

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W.8.3	Write narratives to develop real or imagined experiences or events using effective technique, relevant descriptive details, and well-structured event sequences.	Lessons 74-94
	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.	Lessons 76-77, 89-91
	b. Use narrative techniques, such as dialogue, pacing, description, and reflection to develop experiences, events, and/or characters.	Lessons 78-79
	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.	Lessons 79, 91
	d. Use precise words and phrases, relevant descriptive details, and sensory language to convey experiences and events.	Lessons 78-79
	e. Provide a conclusion that follows from and reflects on the narrated experiences or events.	Lessons 80-81, 92-93

Production and Distribution of Writing

Standard Code	Standard	Top Score Writing Lessons
W.8.4	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.)	Lessons 1-4, 21-24, 47-50, 74-75, 88
W.8.5	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.)	Lessons 10, 19, 43, 45-46, 70, 72-73, 85, 87, 95-96, 98
W.8.6	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.	Teacher-directed

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Research to Build and Present Knowledge

Standard Code	Standard	Top Score Writing Lessons
W.8.7	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.	Various text sets on topics
W.8.8	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.	Lessons 27-29, 31-33, 37-38, 53-55, 58-60, 64-67, 103-104
W.8.9	Draw evidence from literary or informational texts to support analysis, reflection, and research. a. Apply grade 8 Reading standards to literature. b. Apply grade 8 Reading standards to literary nonfiction.	Lessons 27-29, 31-33, 37-38, 53-55, 58-60, 64-67, 103-104

Range of Writing

Standard Code	Standard	Top Score Writing Lessons
W.8.10	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.	Lessons 1-106