

# Grade 8 Writing Standards



## CALIFORNIA

### 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, introducing claim(s), acknowledging and distinguishing the claim(s) from alternate or opposing claims, and organizing the reasons and evidence logically, supporting claim(s) with logical reasoning and relevant evidence while using accurate, credible sources and demonstrating an understanding of the topic or text, using words, phrases, and clauses to create cohesion and clarify the relationships among claim(s), counterclaims, reasons, and evidence, establishing and maintaining a formal style, and providing a concluding statement or section that follows from and supports the argument presented.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   | 48-76                     |
| 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, introducing a topic or thesis statement clearly and previewing what is to follow while organizing ideas, concepts, and information into broader categories and including formatting, graphics, and multimedia when useful to aiding comprehension, developing the topic with well-chosen, relevant facts, definitions, concrete details, quotations, or other information and examples, using appropriate and varied transitions to create cohesion and clarify the relationships among ideas and concepts, using precise language and domain-specific vocabulary to inform about or explain the topic, establishing and maintaining a formal style, and providing a concluding statement or section that follows from and supports the information or explanation presented. | 21-47                     |
| W.8.3         | Write narratives to develop real or imagined experiences or events using effective technique, relevant descriptive details, and well-structured event sequences, engaging and orienting the reader by establishing a context and point of view and introducing a narrator and/or characters while organizing an event sequence that unfolds naturally and logically, using narrative techniques such as dialogue, pacing, description, and reflection to develop experiences, events, and/or characters, using 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, using precise words and phrases, relevant descriptive details, and sensory language to capture the action and convey experiences and events, and providing a conclusion that follows from and reflects on the narrated experiences or events.                                                                                                | 77-98                     |

## 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.                                                                                               | 1-98                        |
| 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. | 19, 45-46, 74-75, 87, 89-90 |
| 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.                                | —                           |

## 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.                                                                  | —                                 |
| 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. | —                                 |
| W.8.9         | Draw evidence from literary or informational texts to support analysis, reflection, and research, applying grade 8 Reading standards to literature and to informational text and nonfiction.                                                                                                | 28-29, 32-36, 55-56, 60-64, 91-97 |

## Range of Writing

| Standard Code | Standard                                                                                                                                                                                                                               | Top Score Writing Lessons |
|---------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------|
| W.8.10        | Write routinely over extended time frames, including time for research, reflection, and revision, and shorter time frames such as a single sitting or a day or two, for a range of discipline-specific tasks, purposes, and audiences. | 1-98                      |