

Grade 8 Writing Standards



VIRGINIA

MODES AND PURPOSES FOR WRITING

Standard Code	Standard	Top Score Writing Lessons
8.W.1.A	Write narratives to develop real or imagined experiences or to alter an existing text, using well-structured event sequences, precise words and phrases, and transitional words to develop the characters, convey sequence, and capture the action.	77-98
8.W.1.B	Write expository texts to examine a topic or concept that conveys ideas and information by maintaining a clear focus with relevant, well-chosen facts, definitions, concrete details, quotations, and examples from multiple credible sources, using structures and patterns (e.g., description, enumeration, classification, comparison, problem-solution, or cause-effect) to clarify relationships among ideas and concepts.	21-47
8.W.1.C	Write persuasively, supporting well-defined points of view effectively with relevant evidence and clear reasoning in ways that logically advance the claim(s) made.	48-76
8.W.1.D	Write reflectively in response to reading to demonstrate thinking with details, examples, and other evidence from the text(s).	28-29, 32-36, 55-56, 60-64, 91-97

Organization and Composition

Standard Code	Standard	Top Score Writing Lessons
8.W.2.A	Generate and organize ideas using the writing process (planning, drafting, revising, editing) to develop multi-paragraph texts. This includes: i. Composing a thesis statement that states a position or explains the purpose. ii. Establishing a central idea that aligns with the thesis and maintaining an organized structure and formal style to fit form and topic, providing elaboration and unity throughout the writing and maintaining a consistent point of view. iii. Stating and defending conclusions or positions with reasons and precise, relevant evidence and complete explanation of how evidence and details support a position, addressing counterclaims when appropriate. iv. Using appropriate and varied transitions to signal shifts in writing to clarify the relationships among ideas and concepts. v. Developing voice and tone by using language that provides vivid and precise vocabulary to enhance the meaning of the writing. vi. Expanding and embedding ideas to create sentence variety. vii. Providing a concluding statement or section.	1-98

Usage and Mechanics

Standard Code	Standard	Top Score Writing Lessons
8.W.3.A	Revise writing for clarity of content, word choice, sentence variety, and transition among paragraphs.	19, 45-46, 74-75, 87, 89-90
8.W.3.B	Self-and peer-edit writing for capitalization, spelling, punctuation, sentence structure, paragraphing, and Standard English.	Grammar: Days 1-4, 38-46, 81-86; core 1-98 (spelling not addressed)