

Grade 8 Writing Standards



WEST VIRGINIA

Text Types and Purposes

Standard Code	Standard	Top Score Writing Lessons
ELA.8.20	Write arguments to support claims with clear reasons and relevant evidence. a. Introduce claim(s), acknowledge and distinguish the claim(s) from alternate or opposing claims, and organize the reasons and evidence logically. b. Support claim(s) with logical reasoning and relevant evidence, using accurate, credible sources and demonstrating an understanding of the topic or text. c. Use words, phrases, and clauses to create cohesion and clarify the relationships among claim(s), counterclaims, reasons, and evidence. d. Establish and maintain a formal style. e. Provide a concluding statement or section that follows from and supports the argument presented.	48-76
ELA.8.21	Write informative/explanatory texts to examine a topic and convey ideas, concepts, and information through the selection, organization, and analysis of relevant content. a. Introduce a topic clearly, previewing what is to follow; organize ideas, concepts, and information into broader categories; include formatting, graphics, and multimedia when useful to aid comprehension. b. Develop the topic with relevant, well-chosen facts, definitions, concrete details, quotations, or other information and examples. c. Use appropriate and varied transitions to create cohesion and clarify the relationships among ideas and concepts. d. Use precise language and domain-specific vocabulary to inform about or explain the topic. e. Establish and maintain a formal style. f. Provide a concluding statement or section that follows from and supports the information or explanation presented.	21-47
ELA.8.22	Write narratives to develop real or imagined experiences or events using effective technique, relevant descriptive details, and well-structured event sequences. 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. b. Use narrative techniques, such as dialogue, pacing, description, and reflection, to develop experiences, events, and/or characters. 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. d. Use precise words and phrases, relevant descriptive details, and sensory language to capture the action and convey experiences and events. e. Provide 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
ELA.8.23	Produce clear and coherent writing in which the development, organization, and style are appropriate to task, purpose, and audience.	1-98
ELA.8.24	With some guidance and support from peers and adults, develop and strengthen writing as needed by planning, revising, or editing to demonstrate command of the Language standards up to and including grade 8, focusing on how well purpose and audience have been addressed.	19, 45-46, 74-75, 87, 89-90
ELA.8.25	Use technology to produce and publish writing, present the relationships between information and ideas efficiently, and interact and collaborate with others.	—

Research to Build and Present Knowledge

Standard Code	Standard	Top Score Writing Lessons
ELA.8.26	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.	—
ELA.8.27	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 (MLA or APA).	—
ELA.8.28	Draw evidence from literary or informational texts and apply grade-level Reading standards to support analysis, reflection, and research.	28-29, 32-36, 55-56, 60-64, 91-97

Range of Writing

Standard Code	Standard	Top Score Writing Lessons
ELA.8.29	Write routinely over extended time frames for research, reflection, and/or revision and shorter time frames for a range of discipline-specific tasks, purposes, and audiences.	1-98