

Narrative Writing

Structure - How the writing is organized and fits together.

Writes a story that has tension, resolution, developed characters, and also conveys a theme.

Writes a beginning that not only sets the plot in motion, introduces the problem and hints at the theme.

Uses phrases to alert the reader to changes in the setting, tone, mood, point of view or time in the setting.

Writes an ending that not only connects to the beginning and middle of the story using action, dialogue or feeling, but revisits the theme.

Uses paragraphs purposefully to further the plot and create a logical sequence of events.

Development - How the writing demonstrates depth and relevance for the reader.

Brings the characters to life with actions, dialogue, thoughts and feelings, as well as internal thinking that contributes to the deeper meaning.

Develops some relationship between characters to show why they act and speak as they do.

Weaves together precise descriptions, figurative language, and some symbolism to help readers picture the setting and actions, and to bring forth meaning.

Uses language that fits the story's meaning and context.

Language Conventions - How the writing uses English language rules.

Applies F.A.S.T. (Wordsmith) spelling patterns and other strategies to spell a word.

Uses resources to be sure the words are spelled correctly.

Uses commas and quotation marks or italics to make clear when characters are speaking.

Information/Opinion Writing

Structure - How the writing is organized and fits together.

Conveys ideas, information or a position about a subject, supported by reliable sources, in a well-structured text.

Writes a beginning that hooks a reader using multiple strategies, and maps out how the text unfolds.

Connects parts of writing using transitional words that imply relationships between ideas.

Writes a conclusion that restates the important ideas and offers a final insight or implication.

Chooses a focused subject and makes deliberate choices about how to order sections and sequence information.

Development - How the writing demonstrates depth and relevance for the reader.

Teaches readers multiple things about the subject including examples, quotations, reasons, facts and definitions.

Obtains information from people, books, knowledge and observations, and credits the sources.

Uses precise phrases, analogies, or images to help strengthen the piece.

Works to make writing understandable and interesting.

Language Conventions - How the writing uses English language rules.

Applies F.A.S.T. (Wordsmith) spelling patterns and other strategies to spell a word.

Uses resources to be sure the words are spelled correctly.

Uses commas and quotation marks or italics to make clear when characters are speaking.

Writing Process

Comes with ideas and strategies and reflects on previous writing in order to get more ideas.

Plans with independence, trying more than one plan until confident.

Develops independence and writing stamina in both independent and thematic based projects.

Uses multiple strategies that thoughtfully revise work.

Edits for spelling, punctuation and language usage along the way and at the end of a project, making sure the piece is publishable for the desired audience.

Starts to recognize the value of being precise and concise and eliminates wordiness and redundancy.

Can explain language choices and the desired effect on the reader.