

Grade Eight Writing Skills

Capitalization & Punctuation

- ❖ Sentences begin with a capital letter.
- ❖ *I*, proper nouns, and proper adjectives begin with a capital letter.
- ❖ Abbreviations and titles begin with a capital letter.
- ❖ Salutations and closings have capital letters and commas.
- ❖ Titles of works, dialogue, and acronyms are capitalized and punctuated correctly.
- ❖ Sentences end with a period, question mark, or exclamation mark.
- ❖ A comma is used in a date, series, between a city and state, and after introductory words and direct address.
- ❖ A comma is used to separate clauses and phrases from the rest of the sentence.
- ❖ Apostrophes are used in contractions, possessives, and plurals of numbers, letters, and symbols.
- ❖ A hyphen is used to divide words at the end of a line.
- ❖ A colon is used to introduce a list.
- ❖ A semicolon is used to separate independent clauses.

Grammar

- ❖ Subject and verb agree.
- ❖ Present, past, and future tense verbs are used correctly.
- ❖ Perfect tense verbs are used correctly.
- ❖ Pronouns, adjectives, articles, adverbs, interjections, prepositions, and conjunctions are used correctly.

Sentence & Paragraph Structure

- ❖ Complete sentences are used.
- ❖ Writing is on topic.
- ❖ Paragraphs are indented.
- ❖ Compound and complex sentences are used correctly.
- ❖ A new paragraph is used for a new idea.
- ❖ Paragraph transitions are correctly used in an essay.

Spelling

- ❖ Grade level words are spelled correctly.
- ❖ Words are copied correctly.
- ❖ Words with suffixes are spelled correctly.
- ❖ Homophones are used correctly.