

Southern Lehigh School District  
Grade Level Benchmarks for Writing  
Grade 5

**Types of Writing**

Narrative (stories, poems)

Expository/Informational (letters, reports, instructions, descriptions)

Persuasive

**Quality of Writing**

**Ideas and Content**

Uses text to express a clear message focused on a specific event or topic

Uses multiple sentences to add details connected to the topic

**Organization**

Writes narrative in a logical/sequential order, including a recognizable beginning, middle and end

Writes expository/informational piece with main idea, supporting details, and conclusion

Writes persuasive piece with a topic sentence (position statement), supporting details, and conclusion

Writes a topic/main idea sentence that restates the prompt and/or grabs the reader's attention

Writes a closing sentence that restates the topic sentence in a new way

Writes multiple supporting detail sentences related to the topic

Uses appropriate connecting words and transitions to link ideas, help the story flow, and keep the reader interested

**Conventions**

Uses capital and lower case letters accurately

Uses periods, exclamation points, and question marks accurately

Uses commas in dates and addresses

Spells First and Second Grade "No Excuse Words" correctly

Spells most words correctly

Uses complete sentences, which include simple subject and simple predicate, to convey thoughts

Uses quotation marks in dialogue

Experiments with difficult conventions (e.g. ellipses, dashes, parentheses)

Uses paragraphs correctly to convey message

## Voice

Reflects the personality of the author

Narrative is entertaining and fun to read aloud

Expository/Informational/Persuasive conveys an appropriate purpose for writing

## Word Choice

Uses precise, interesting and natural words and/or phrases to create a picture in reader's mind

Uses synonyms to replace repetitive words

## Sentence Fluency

Uses complex sentences (experiments with a variety of introductory phrases)

Uses compound sentences

Attempts to construct sentences with varied length and structure

## Writing Process

Pre-write

Draft

Revise

Edit

Publish

**\*Items bolded are new benchmarks for this grade level.**