

Southern Lehigh School District
Grade Level Benchmarks for Writing
Grade 3

Types of Writing

Narrative (stories, poems)

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

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 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 to clearly convey message

Voice

Reflects the personality of the author

Narrative is entertaining and fun to read aloud

Expository/Informational 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.**