

Figure 3.14: Writing Rubric for Grades 3–5

Trait	Trait Details	1	2	3	4
Ideas	Topic	Topic lacks focus or does not write to the prompt.	Writer mostly stays on topic.	Writer stays on topic throughout.	Writer stays on topic throughout. Writer uses personal experience or research to present clear or creative ideas.
	Clarity	Ideas lack clarity.	Ideas are clear at times.	Ideas are clear throughout.	Ideas are clear throughout. Ideas support the main idea or theme.
	Detail	Details don't clearly connect to the topic or are not present.	Details are present and connect to the topic but may not be seen throughout.	Details are present and connected to the topic throughout. Details add interest or feelings.	Details are connected to the topic throughout. Details add interest or feelings. Details enhance understanding of the topic.
Organization	Introduction	Introduction has no clear purpose or lead.	Introduction sets purpose or captures reader's attention.	Introduction sets purpose and captures reader's attention.	Introduction sets purpose and captures reader's attention in a well-crafted engaging paragraph.
	Body	Order can be confusing.	Order is logical. Transitions may be present but are simple or repetitive.	Order is logical. Transitional words or ideas are used effectively.	Order is logical. Transitional words or ideas are used effectively. Pacing is effective and flows smoothly and naturally.
	Conclusion	Writing ends but is not brought to closure.	Conclusion provides closure.	Conclusion provides closure that is appropriate and interesting.	Conclusion provides closure that is original and thought provoking.
Voice	Audience	Voice does not match purpose or audience.	Voice attempts to match purpose or audience.	Voice matches purpose and audience.	Voice enhances purpose and is well-suited to the audience.
Word Choice	Word Choice	Words are too few, repetitive, or are both.	Words are ordinary, everyday.	Words add interest.	Many words add interest, create vivid images, or do both.
Sentence Fluency	Structure, Variety, and Flow	Writing is in words or word phrases or run-on sentences.	Simple sentence structure is used repetitively.	Sentence structure and length are varied.	Sentence structure and length are varied and have rhythm and flow.
Conventions	Punctuation, Capitalization, Spelling, and Grammar	Errors are frequent and make it difficult to understand the writing.	Several errors are present but writing can be understood with careful concentration.	Errors are present but do not interfere with understanding.	Minor errors may be present but do not detract from the flow of the writing.