

# 8<sup>TH</sup> GRADE WRITING CHECKLIST

## Goal 3

### Illinois Learning Standard A

ISAT test questions are derived from this checklist. Use as a curriculum guide.

#### GRAMMAR AND SENTENCE STRUCTURE

\_\_\_\_\_ Write complete sentences (e.g., avoid fragments and run-on sentences).

\_\_\_\_\_ Use the correct form of regular and irregular verbs.

\_\_\_\_\_ Write a variety of sentences (e.g., simple, compound and complex).

\_\_\_\_\_ Use correct subject-verb agreement.

\_\_\_\_\_ Write sentences with correct pronoun-antecedent agreement.

\_\_\_\_\_ Demonstrate grade-appropriate use of the various parts of speech.

\_\_\_\_\_ Use consistent verb tense.

#### SPELLING

\_\_\_\_\_ Spell grade-appropriate words correctly.

#### PUNCTUATION AND CAPITALIZATION

\_\_\_\_\_ Capitalize words correctly (based on grade-appropriate rules).

\_\_\_\_\_ Use correct end punctuation.

\_\_\_\_\_ Use commas joining two independent clauses.

\_\_\_\_\_ Use grade-appropriate apostrophes correctly.

\_\_\_\_\_ Use quotation marks in direct quotations.

#### PERSUASIVE COMPOSITION

Write a persuasive composition by taking a position on a topic and developing one side of the argument.

##### **Persuasive (Focus)**

The clarity with which a composition presents and maintains a clear main idea or point of view.

\_\_\_\_\_ Write a sophisticated opening through the use of anecdotes, quotations, definitions, personal appeals or other effective strategies.

\_\_\_\_\_ Clearly maintain logic and position throughout.

\_\_\_\_\_ Write an effective closing which unifies the essay.

### **Persuasive (Support)**

The degree to which the main point or position is supported and explained by specific details and reasons.

\_\_\_\_\_ Use well chosen words that suit the message and occasion.

\_\_\_\_\_ Use multiple strategies to develop support. (e.g., explanation, evidence, examples)

\_\_\_\_\_ Build and connect ideas to create depth.

\_\_\_\_\_ Develop key points evenly (to the same degree of specificity).

\_\_\_\_\_ Maintain consistent voice throughout.

### **Persuasive (Organization)**

The clarity of the logical flow of ideas and the explicitness of the text structure or plan (coherence and cohesion).

\_\_\_\_\_ Include a clear structure (appropriate to purpose).

\_\_\_\_\_ Use appropriate paragraphing for major points.

\_\_\_\_\_ Connect sentences and paragraphs through effective and varied transitions and other devices (e.g., repetition, pronouns, synonyms, and parallel structure).

\_\_\_\_\_ Vary sentence structure and word choice.

### **Persuasive (Integration)**

Evaluation of the composition based on a focused, global judgment of how effectively the composition as a whole fulfills the assignment.

\_\_\_\_\_ Fully develop the composition for grade level.

\_\_\_\_\_ Include clear, purposeful focus and voice.

\_\_\_\_\_ Write in-depth, balanced support.

\_\_\_\_\_ Develop lines of reasoning coherently and cohesively throughout the composition.

## **NARRATIVE COMPOSITION**

Write a personal narrative composition recounting and reflecting upon a significant experience, describing the action that occurs and the reactions of the participants involved.

### **Narrative (Focus)**

The clarity with which a narrative composition presents and maintains a unifying event or theme

\_\_\_\_\_ Clearly set the purpose of the composition through a successful introduction strategy.

\_\_\_\_\_ Include reactions that are effectively connected to the unifying event.

\_\_\_\_\_ Write an effective closing which unifies the writing.

### **Narrative (Elaboration)**

The degree to which the event is elaborated by specific details, descriptions and reactions

\_\_\_\_\_ Develop all major episodes/reactions with specific details and examples (developed to the same degree of specificity).

\_\_\_\_\_ Describe events/reactions through multiple strategies (e.g., points of view/perspective, others' reactions, dialogue, etc).

\_\_\_\_\_ Write an effective closing which unifies the writing.

\_\_\_\_\_ Use specific words to describe the event/reactions.

\_\_\_\_\_ Maintain consistent voice throughout.

### **Narrative (Organization)**

The clarity of the logical flow of an experience and/or movement of an event through time (coherence and cohesion)

\_\_\_\_\_ Write a sequence of episodes that move through time with a beginning, a middle, and an end without noticeable gaps.

\_\_\_\_\_ Use appropriate paragraphing.

\_\_\_\_\_ Use effective and varied devices to demonstrate coherence and cohesion (e.g., transitions, parallel structure, pronouns, etc.).

\_\_\_\_\_ Present and interrelate episodes and reactions logically.

\_\_\_\_\_ Vary sentence structure to produce cohesion.

**Narrative (Integration)**

The evaluation of the composition based on a focused, global judgment of how effectively the composition as a whole fulfills the assignment.

\_\_\_\_\_ Fully develop the composition for grade level.

\_\_\_\_\_ Maintain a clear and purposeful focus, an in-depth, balanced elaboration and a consistent voice.

\_\_\_\_\_ Develop a sequence of episodes coherently and cohesively throughout.