

Grade 7 Writing Rubric

COMPOSING/WRITTEN EXPRESSION- * indicates new skill introduced for this grade level				
	8	6	4	2
CENTRAL IDEA AND POSITION	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Clear thesis stating position or side <input type="checkbox"/> Focus on appropriate audience <input type="checkbox"/> Clear, consistent focus on a central idea 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Clear position <input type="checkbox"/> General focus on audience <input type="checkbox"/> Reasonably consistent focus on central idea 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> May focus on a position <input type="checkbox"/> Inconsistent focus on audience or fails to identify an audience <input type="checkbox"/> Inconsistent focus on central idea 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Fails to take a position <input type="checkbox"/> No focus on audience or inappropriate audience <input type="checkbox"/> Little or no focus on a central idea
ORGANIZATION AND UNITY	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Strong introduction with an effective thesis statement* <input type="checkbox"/> Follows a logical organizational plan <input type="checkbox"/> Evidence and reasons are organized logically <input type="checkbox"/> Strong beginning, middle, and end <input type="checkbox"/> Each paragraph has a strong topic sentence focusing on the main idea <input type="checkbox"/> Maintains a consistent point of view* <input type="checkbox"/> Effectively uses transitional words and/or phrases to connect thoughts <input type="checkbox"/> Uses transitions effectively to connect ideas within and across paragraphs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Skillful introduction with evidence of a thesis statement <input type="checkbox"/> Evidence of an organizational plan <input type="checkbox"/> Evidence and reasons are organized logically <input type="checkbox"/> Has a beginning, middle, and end <input type="checkbox"/> Each paragraph has a topic sentence somewhat focused on the main idea <input type="checkbox"/> Point of view may shift occasionally but does not distract the reader <input type="checkbox"/> Uses transitional words and/or phrases to connect thoughts <input type="checkbox"/> Uses transitions to connect ideas within and across paragraphs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Weak introduction with a statement of intent or weak thesis statement <input type="checkbox"/> Inconsistent organizational plan <input type="checkbox"/> Some evidence or an attempt at a beginning, middle, and end <input type="checkbox"/> Each paragraph has an inconsistent or weak topic sentence <input type="checkbox"/> Shifts in point of view <input type="checkbox"/> Inconsistent use of transitional words and/or phrases to connect thoughts <input type="checkbox"/> Limited or inconsistent use of transitions within and across paragraphs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> No introduction with no purposeful thesis statement <input type="checkbox"/> Fails to organize ideas <input type="checkbox"/> No clear beginning, middle, and end <input type="checkbox"/> Each paragraph does not have a topic sentence with little or no indication of the main idea <input type="checkbox"/> Shifts in point of view <input type="checkbox"/> Little or no evidence of transitional words and/or phrases to connect thoughts <input type="checkbox"/> Absence of transitions connecting ideas
EVIDENCE AND DETAILS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Contains precise and relevant evidence (examples, illustrations, reasons, events, details) supporting purpose and audience <input type="checkbox"/> Details clarify and defend the writer's position; fully and clearly elaborates ideas. <input type="checkbox"/> Shows how evidence supports each main point of the argument <input type="checkbox"/> Provides justification of how the evidence supports 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Contains adequate evidence (examples, illustrations, reasons, events, and/or details) supporting purpose and audience <input type="checkbox"/> Some details clarify and defend the writer's position, minor lapses in elaboration <input type="checkbox"/> Some evidence supports the main argument <input type="checkbox"/> Limited justification of how the evidence supports the claims <input type="checkbox"/> Somewhat elaborated with sufficient use of facts, definitions, opinions, 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Contains limited evidence (examples, illustrations, reasons, events, and/or details) supporting purpose and audience <input type="checkbox"/> Few details clarify or defend the writer's position <input type="checkbox"/> Ideas may be a list of general, underdeveloped statements <input type="checkbox"/> Contains limited use of facts, definitions, opinions, quotations, details, and/or other examples to support the central idea 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Contains little or no evidence (examples, illustrations, reasons, events, and/or details) supporting purpose and audience <input type="checkbox"/> Little or no elaboration <input type="checkbox"/> List of general unrelated statements <input type="checkbox"/> Contains little or no elaboration, lack of details and/or examples

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> the claims <input type="checkbox"/> Fully elaborated using facts, definitions, opinions, quotations, details, and/or other examples to support the central idea 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> quotations, details, and/or other examples to support the central idea 		
CONCLUSION	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Strong, effective conclusion, which provides a call to action, offers a solution, and/or includes a final appeal 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Good conclusion, which may restate the problem and recommends a strong solution 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Presents a weak conclusion or merely restates the thesis 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Fails to draw conclusions
FLOW	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Rhythmic flow resulting from purposeful sentence variety <input type="checkbox"/> Sentences incorporate subordination of ideas, and/or effective embedding of modifiers 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Some rhythmic flow and sentence variety <input type="checkbox"/> Some sentences use subordination of ideas, and/or embedding modifiers 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Uneven rhythmic flow and limited sentence variety <input type="checkbox"/> Little subordination of ideas 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> No rhythmic flow and no sentence variety <input type="checkbox"/> No subordination or embedding modifiers
WORD CHOICE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Contains highly specific word choice, descriptive language, and selected information <input type="checkbox"/> Appropriate, purposeful tone* <input type="checkbox"/> Evidence of writer's voice* 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Contains specific word choice, descriptive language, and selected information <input type="checkbox"/> Evidence of tone <input type="checkbox"/> Some evidence of writer's voice 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Limited word choice, descriptive language and or selected information <input type="checkbox"/> Inconsistent tone <input type="checkbox"/> Limited evidence of writer's voice 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Lacks tone and voice, little or no specific word choice, descriptive language, and/or selected information <input type="checkbox"/> No evidence of writer's voice

Grade 7 Writing Rubric

SENTENCE FORMATION/USAGE/MECHANICS- * indicates new skill introduced for this grade level

	4	3	2	1
SENTENCE FORMATION	<p>Consistently avoids</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> fragments <input type="checkbox"/> run-ons <input type="checkbox"/> comma splices <input type="checkbox"/> dangling modifiers <p>Consistently uses correct</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> modifiers <input type="checkbox"/> coordination <input type="checkbox"/> subordination 	<p>Reasonably avoids</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> fragments <input type="checkbox"/> run-ons <input type="checkbox"/> comma splices <input type="checkbox"/> dangling modifiers <p>Reasonably uses correct</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> modifiers <input type="checkbox"/> coordination <input type="checkbox"/> subordination 	<p>Occasionally uses</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> fragments <input type="checkbox"/> run-ons, <input type="checkbox"/> comma splices <input type="checkbox"/> dangling modifiers <p>Occasionally uses correct</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> modifiers <input type="checkbox"/> coordination <input type="checkbox"/> subordination 	<p>Includes multiple</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> fragments <input type="checkbox"/> run-ons, <input type="checkbox"/> comma splices <input type="checkbox"/> dangling modifiers <p>Does not consistently use</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> modifiers <input type="checkbox"/> coordination <input type="checkbox"/> subordination
USAGE	<p>Consistently controls usage of</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> subject/verb agreement <input type="checkbox"/> noun/pronoun agreement <input type="checkbox"/> pronoun case <input type="checkbox"/> verb tenses <input type="checkbox"/> plurals and possessives <input type="checkbox"/> homophones <input type="checkbox"/> avoidance of double negatives 	<p>Reasonably controls usage of</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> subject/verb agreement <input type="checkbox"/> noun/pronoun agreement <input type="checkbox"/> pronoun case <input type="checkbox"/> verb tenses <input type="checkbox"/> plurals and possessives <input type="checkbox"/> homophones <input type="checkbox"/> avoidance of double negatives 	<p>Inconsistently controls usage of</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> subject/verb agreement <input type="checkbox"/> noun/pronoun agreement <input type="checkbox"/> pronoun case <input type="checkbox"/> verb tenses <input type="checkbox"/> plurals and possessives <input type="checkbox"/> homophones <input type="checkbox"/> avoidance of double negatives 	<p>Exhibits little or no control of usage of</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> subject/verb agreement <input type="checkbox"/> noun/pronoun agreement <input type="checkbox"/> pronoun case <input type="checkbox"/> verb tenses <input type="checkbox"/> plurals and possessives <input type="checkbox"/> homophones <input type="checkbox"/> avoidance of double negatives
MECHANICS	<p>Consistently controls usage of punctuation, including</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> end marks <input type="checkbox"/> period after abbreviations <input type="checkbox"/> commas in dates, series, and addresses <input type="checkbox"/> commas around interrupters (including nouns of direct address, appositives, and expletives) <input type="checkbox"/> punctuation in and around dialogue <input type="checkbox"/> quotation marks around dialogue <input type="checkbox"/> italics or underlining as appropriate <input type="checkbox"/> quotation marks around titles of articles <input type="checkbox"/> apostrophes in contractions <input type="checkbox"/> apostrophes in possessives 	<p>Reasonably controls usage of punctuation, including</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> end marks <input type="checkbox"/> period after abbreviations <input type="checkbox"/> commas in dates, series, and addresses <input type="checkbox"/> commas around interrupters (including nouns of direct address, appositives, and expletives) <input type="checkbox"/> punctuation in and around dialogue <input type="checkbox"/> quotation marks around dialogue <input type="checkbox"/> italics or underlining as appropriate <input type="checkbox"/> quotation marks around titles of articles <input type="checkbox"/> apostrophes in contractions <input type="checkbox"/> apostrophes in possessives 	<p>Inconsistently controls usage of punctuation, including</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> end marks <input type="checkbox"/> period after abbreviations <input type="checkbox"/> commas in dates, series, and addresses <input type="checkbox"/> commas around interrupters (including nouns of direct address, appositives, and expletives) <input type="checkbox"/> punctuation in and around dialogue <input type="checkbox"/> quotation marks around dialogue <input type="checkbox"/> italics or underlining as appropriate <input type="checkbox"/> quotation marks around titles of articles <input type="checkbox"/> apostrophes in contractions <input type="checkbox"/> apostrophes in possessives 	<p>Exhibits little or no control of punctuation, including</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> end marks <input type="checkbox"/> period after abbreviations <input type="checkbox"/> commas in dates, series, and addresses <input type="checkbox"/> commas around interrupters (including nouns of direct address, appositives, and expletives) <input type="checkbox"/> punctuation in and around dialogue <input type="checkbox"/> quotation marks around dialogue <input type="checkbox"/> italics or underlining as appropriate <input type="checkbox"/> quotation marks around titles of articles <input type="checkbox"/> apostrophes in contractions <input type="checkbox"/> apostrophes in possessives

	<p>Consistently controls usage of capitalization, including</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> first words <input type="checkbox"/> proper nouns <input type="checkbox"/> proper adjectives <input type="checkbox"/> "I" <input type="checkbox"/> school subjects, as needed <input type="checkbox"/> family titles <p>Consistently controls usage of formatting, including</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> indenting or double-spacing between paragraphs <input type="checkbox"/> dividing paragraphs for dialogue <input type="checkbox"/> dividing words correctly <p>Consistently controls usage of spelling.</p>	<p>Reasonably controls usage of capitalization, including</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> first words <input type="checkbox"/> proper nouns <input type="checkbox"/> proper adjectives <input type="checkbox"/> "I" <input type="checkbox"/> school subjects, as needed <input type="checkbox"/> family titles <p>Reasonably controls usage of formatting, including</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> indenting or double-spacing between paragraphs <input type="checkbox"/> dividing paragraphs for dialogue <input type="checkbox"/> dividing words correctly <p>Reasonably controls usage of spelling.</p>	<p>Inconsistently controls usage of capitalization, including</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> first words <input type="checkbox"/> proper nouns <input type="checkbox"/> proper adjectives <input type="checkbox"/> "I" <input type="checkbox"/> school subjects, as needed <input type="checkbox"/> family titles <p>Inconsistently controls usage of formatting, including</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> indenting or double-spacing between paragraphs <input type="checkbox"/> dividing paragraphs for dialogue <input type="checkbox"/> dividing words correctly <p>Inconsistently controls usage of spelling.</p>	<p>Exhibits little or no control of capitalization, including</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> first words <input type="checkbox"/> proper nouns <input type="checkbox"/> proper adjectives <input type="checkbox"/> "I" <input type="checkbox"/> school subjects, as needed <input type="checkbox"/> family titles <p>Exhibits little or no control of formatting, including</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> indenting or double-spacing between paragraphs <input type="checkbox"/> dividing paragraphs for dialogue <input type="checkbox"/> dividing words correctly <p>Exhibits little or no control of spelling.</p>
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