

Writing Checklist: Grade 4 Composition

These are the types of writing that your student will encounter in the K12 4th grade Composition curriculum. Your student should have successfully completed 80 percent of them and be able to furnish writing samples written at a grade appropriate level. You can use this checklist in your consideration of placement.

Checklist of Writing Types:

Guided Journal Entries:

A journal describes events and ideas. Writers also use journals to describe experiences or to record ideas for future writings. Students will write a description of a place or thing in the writing journal and compare a novelist's journal entry to their own.

In preparing to write the journal entries, students will learn the steps of writing (prewriting, drafting, revising, proofreading, and publishing).

Report:

A report is a piece of writing that contains information. Students will identify a topic, find sources, gather information, learn how to best organize information, and prepare a complete report. Other skills that students will learn include taking notes, conducting research, making an outline, using precise words, and compiling a bibliography.

Book Review:

A book review goes a step further than just reporting on what a book is about. It introduces the element of a personal opinion, backed up with reasons and evidence. The student will judge what he or she likes and doesn't like in a novel, and learn how to clearly and convincingly express this judgment.

Poetry:

Students will learn elements of poetry, how to write poems in prescribed forms, in free verse, and create poems that rhyme. Writing poetry helps the student enjoy the play of language for its own sake, as well as learn ways to make any writing more active, imaginative, and vivid. In writing poetry, students will follow the steps of the writing process.

Writing to a Prompt:

Many assignments, as well as many standardized tests, ask students to write about an assigned topic—that is, to write to a prompt. Students will identify different kinds of prompts and practice writing to narrative, expository, persuasive, and descriptive prompts. Students will also write to a prompt in a simulated test situation.

Persuasive Paper:

There is an important difference between having an opinion and having an opinion supported with facts and evidence. Students will make this distinction as they work through the steps involved in preparing a persuasive paper. The student will find and use sources to support an opinion, draft their paper, and revise, proofread, and publish a persuasive paper.

