

Writing Checklist: Grade 5

These are the types of writing that your student will encounter in the K12 5th 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:

Memoir:

A memoir is a kind of essay based on a writer's personal experience. In a memoir, a writer not only tells about what happened to him or her, but also reflects on the meaning of what happened. Students will turn a significant event from their lives into a memoir. In preparing to write the memoir, students will learn or review the stages of the writing process (prewriting, drafting, revising, proofreading, and publishing). The memoir will include the elements of plot, setting, characters, and theme.

Research Paper:

A research paper is a kind of report that requires reading to gather facts and information. Students will choose a topic, formulate questions about the topic, and learn how to find reliable information on that topic. Other concepts that students will study include taking notes, making an outline, and compiling a bibliography.

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.

Editorial:

Editorials express opinions, engender debate, and shape policy. An editorial is a form of persuasive essay. Besides stating the writer's opinion, an editorial also gives facts and reasons to support that opinion. In preparing to write the editorial, students will do some research to find facts and expert opinions to support their editorials.



Speech:

Speeches may be informative, persuasive, or entertaining. An informative speech gives the audience new information. Students will choose a topic for an informative speech and turn their main idea into a thesis statement. They will plan, outline, write, and deliver a speech.



Business Letters:

A business letter provides a written record of communication, which can be useful if one is trying to resolve a problem. Business letters should be clear, neat, and to the point. Students will learn the functions of different types of business letters, address an envelope for a business letter, write a request letter, and write a complaint letter.



Compare and Contrast:

To compare and contrast is to take two subjects and explain their similarities and differences. Students will use a passage in the Composition program as the basis for writing a comparison-and-contrast essay about two great Americans. In preparing to write the essay, students will read and take notes on a selection and organize information into logical categories.

