

School to Home Writing Connection

Writing is incorporated across the subject areas at all grade levels. Students write daily for different purposes and audiences – research papers, summary statements, poetry, legends, word problems, essays, responses to literature and more.

Your child will work to master such specific skills as responding to a prompt, adding details and elaboration, and using age appropriate vocabulary when he/she writes. He/she will practice writing with conventions, including punctuation marks, paragraphing and verb tenses. He/she will use these skills as he/she begins to write dialogues, explanations, and comparisons at all levels.

Different types of Writing:

Descriptive writing – creates a clear and vivid picture of a person, place or thing.

Expository nonfiction writing – explains an event, concept or idea using facts and examples (research paper)

Narrative writing – writing about an event in a personal way

Persuasive writing – encourages an audience to share the writer’s beliefs, opinions or point of view.

The Writing Process

Prewriting – This is the first stage of the process in which the writer gathers information. Graphic organizers could be used to help with this process.

Drafting – The writer then develops his/her topic on paper or the computer. At this stage the focus is on the content of the writing not the mechanics. The writer begins to organize thoughts and develop the structure of the paper. The writer begins to think about the “opening sentence” that will engage the reader and develop a conclusion that ties everything together.

Revising – Next the writer makes changes to the draft to improve the writing and make it clear. This may include additions or deletions, changes in the sentence structure or organization. At this stage it is helpful to have input from a peer or teacher.

Editing – In the editing stage the writer pays attention to the mechanics of spelling, punctuation, grammar and handwriting.

Publishing - The final draft is then shared with the desired audience and reflected upon. It is important for students to share their work with others and reflect on their reactions in order to improve future writing.

Six Trait Model

The Six Trait writing model is used to teach writing. It breaks down writing performance into a manageable group of teachable and assessable skills. This model focuses on the following six traits seen in written work: ideas, organization, voice, word choice, fluency and mechanics (the use of grammar, sentence structure, capitalization and punctuation.).

Attached are the district six trait writing rubrics along with explanations for each trait.

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