

Name _____
Saint Gabriel School

Date: School Year 2018-2019
Language Arts 8

Using *Write Source*

OVERVIEW OF THE PROCESS

The Writing Process

Prewriting – Selecting a Topic and Gathering & Organizing Ideas

Writing – Developing Your First Draft

Revising – Improving Your Writing

Editing – Checking for Conventions

Publishing – Sharing Your Writing

Peer Responding

Peer Response Guidelines

1. Listen or read carefully.
2. Look for what is good.
3. Tell what you think could be improved.
4. Ask questions.
5. Make other suggestions.

Understanding the Traits of Writing

Ideas – Effective writing has a clear message, purpose, or focus.
The writing contains plenty of specific ideas and details.

Organization – Strong writing has a clear beginning, middle, and ending.
The overall writing is well organized and easy to follow.

Voice – The best writing reveals the writer’s voice – or special way of saying things.
The voice also fits the audience.

Word Choice – Good writing contains strong words, including specific nouns and verbs.
Strong words deliver a clear message.

Sentence Fluency – Effective writing flows smoothly from one sentence to the next.
Sentences vary in length and begin in a variety of ways.

Conventions – Good writing is carefully edited to make sure it is easy to understand.
The writing should follow the rules for punctuation, grammar, capitalization, and spelling.

The Forms of Writing

Descriptive Writing
Narrative Writing
Expository Writing
Persuasive Writing
Response to Literature
Creative Writing
Research Writing

The Basic Elements of Writing

Working with Words

Nouns
Pronouns
Verbs
Adjectives
Adverbs
Prepositions
Conjunctions

Building Effective Sentences

Writing Complete Sentences – Check your subjects and predicates.
Check for dependent clauses.
Check for a complete thought.

Fixing Sentence Problems – Avoid run-on sentences.
Eliminate rambling sentences.
Check for wordy sentences.
Move misplaced modifiers.
Make subjects and verbs agree.
Avoid double negatives.

Improving Sentence Style – Combine short sentences.
Use different types of sentences.
Expand sentences by adding words and phrases.
Model sentences of other writers.

Improving Sentence Flow – Combine with a series.
Combine with phrases.
Combine with infinitive and participial phrases.
Combine with relative pronouns.

Improving Sentence Variety – Create compound sentences.
Develop complex sentences
Use questions and commands.
Expand with prepositional phrases.
Expand with infinitive and participial phrases.

Writing Interesting Sentences – Model sentence structure of writers you admire.
Develop a sentence style.
1. Vary sentence beginnings.
2. Move adjectives.
3. Repeat words for emphasis.
4. Create balance by using parallel structures.

Constructing Strong Paragraphs

The Parts of a Paragraph – The Topic Sentence

The Body

1. Use specific details to make your paragraph interesting.
2. Organize your sentences in the best possible order.

The Closing

Types of Paragraphs – Narrative paragraphs share personal stories or important experiences.
Descriptive paragraphs create a picture using sensory details.
Expository paragraphs share information.
Persuasive paragraphs share opinions or strong feelings about a topic.

Find Interesting Details – Use personal details: sensory, memory, reflective.

Use other sources of details.

1. Talk with someone you know.
2. Write for information.
3. Read about your topic.
4. Use the Internet.

Organize Details Effectively – Use chronological order.

Use order of location.

Use order of importance.

Use comparison-contrast order

Make Details Work Well – Create unity in your writing: develop one topic.

Develop coherence from start to finish: details should flow smoothly and clearly.

Write Essays Containing Strong Paragraphs

1. Plan the organization to fit the topic.
2. State the topic and focus in the first paragraph.
3. Develop your writing idea in the middle paragraphs.
4. Finish with a strong ending.
5. Use transition words or phrases to connect paragraphs.

CHECKLIST FOR A STRONG PARAGRAPH

Ideas

- _____ 1. Do I focus on an interesting idea?
- _____ 2. Do I have enough specific details?

Organization

- _____ 1. Is my topic sentence clear?
- _____ 2. Have I organized the details in the best order?

Voice

- _____ 1. Do I show interest in – and knowledge of – my topic?
- _____ 2. Does my voice fit my audience? My purpose? My topic?

Word Choice

- _____ 1. Do I use specific nouns and active verbs?
- _____ 2. Do I use specific adjectives and adverbs?

Sentence Fluency

- _____ 1. Have I written clear and complete sentences?
- _____ 2. Do I use a variety of sentence beginnings and lengths?

Conventions

- _____ 1. Do I use correct punctuation and capitalization?
- _____ 2. Do I use correct spelling and grammar?

