

Nebraska State Accountability-Writing (NeSA-W) Performance Level Descriptors

Grade 11

Below the Standards

Overall the student's writing reflects an unsatisfactory performance of the standards and an insufficient understanding of the traits of writing. The student's writing is still under development. Extensive revision and/or editing is necessary.

The student's writing is below the standards if the . . .

- Writer conveys limited or no opinion or position about the topic.
- Content has some digressions from the topic.
- Reasoning is limited or unclear.
- Supporting examples or reasons are limited or lacking.
- Structural development of an introduction, body, and conclusion is limited or lacking.
- Pacing is inconsistent or awkward.
- Transitions are repetitious, weak, unclear, or missing.
- Paragraphing is irregular, ineffective, or missing.
- Writer demonstrates limited or no commitment to the topic.
- Voice is sometimes inappropriate for the purpose and audience.
- Language is seldom specific, precise, or varied.
- Writer often fails to anticipate the reader's questions.
- Sentences seldom vary in length or structure.
- Phrasing sounds awkward and unnatural.
- Writing includes fragments or run-ons that confuse the reader.
- Grammar, usage, punctuation, and spelling errors distract the reader.

Meets the Standards

Overall the student's writing reflects a satisfactory performance of the standards and a sufficient understanding of the traits of writing. The student's writing demonstrates more strengths than weaknesses. Some revision and/or editing is necessary.

The student's writing meets the standards if the . . .

- Writer conveys a general opinion or position about the topic.
- Content is generally focused on the topic.
- Reasoning is usually logical and convincing.
- Supporting examples or reasons are adequate and relevant.
- Structural development of an introduction, body, and conclusion is functional.
- Pacing is generally controlled.
- Transitions are functional.
- Paragraphing is generally successful.
- Writer demonstrates a general commitment to the topic.
- Voice is generally appropriate for the purpose and audience.
- Language is generally specific, precise, varied, and engaging.
- Writer generally anticipates the reader's questions.
- Sentences generally vary in length or structure.
- Phrasing generally sounds natural.
- Fragments and run-ons, if present, generally do not confuse the reader.
- Grammar, usage, punctuation, and spelling are usually correct and errors rarely distract the reader.

Exceeds the Standards

Overall the student's writing reflects an advanced performance of the standards and a thorough understanding of the traits of writing. The student's writing demonstrates numerous strengths. Only minor revision and/or editing is necessary.

The student's writing exceeds the standards if the . . .

- Writer conveys a clear opinion or position about the topic.
- Content is well-focused on the topic.
- Reasoning is logical and compelling.
- Supporting examples or reasons are numerous and relevant.
- Structural development of an introduction, body, and conclusion is effective.
- Pacing is well-controlled.
- Transitions effectively show how ideas connect.
- Paragraphing is sound.
- Writer demonstrates a strong commitment to the topic.
- Voice is well-suited for the purpose and audience.
- Language is specific, precise, varied, and engaging throughout.
- Writer consistently anticipates reader's questions.
- Sentences vary in length and structure throughout.
- Phrasing consistently sounds natural and conveys meaning.
- Fragments and run-ons, if present, are intended for stylistic effect.
- Grammar, usage, punctuation, and spelling are consistently correct and may be manipulated for stylistic effect.





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