Grade 8 Writing Checklist

Narrative

Meets Expectations:

☐ Narrates real or imagined experiences or events

☐ Establishes a context and point of view
   a. Introduces a narrator and/or characters
   b. Creates a logical and natural sequence of events

☐ Uses narrative techniques
   a. Dialogue and description
   b. Pacing *(time and sequence)*

☐ Describes events clearly
   a. Uses transition words, phrases, and clauses
   b. Uses precise words and phrases
   c. Uses sensory language and descriptive details

☐ Provides a conclusion

Conventions

Meets Expectations:

☐ Spells correctly
   a. Grade-appropriate vocabulary
   b. Domain-specific vocabulary

☐ Uses correct capitalization

☐ Uses correct and consistent punctuation

☐ Uses knowledge of language in writing
   a. Maintains consistent formal style
   b. Expresses ideas concisely and precisely

Informative/Explanatory

Meets Expectations:

☐ Introduces a topic
   a. Organizes information using a type of text structure strategy
   b. Uses graphics and/or multimedia to aid in comprehension

☐ Develops the topic
   a. Provides relevant facts, definitions, and concrete details
   b. Uses multiple sources to gather information *(examples and quotations)*

☐ Uses appropriate transitions
   a. Clarifies the relationships among ideas and concepts
   b. Uses precise language *(domain-specific)*

☐ Provides a conclusion
   a. Statement or section

Conventions

Meets Expectations:

☐ Spells correctly
   a. Domain-specific vocabulary
   b. Grade-appropriate vocabulary

☐ Uses correct capitalization

☐ Uses correct and consistent punctuation
   a. Commas, parentheses, dashes

☐ Uses knowledge of language in writing
   a. Maintains consistent formal style
   b. Expresses ideas concisely and precisely

Note: Checklist assumes mastery of skills from previous grades.

Grade 8 Writing Checklist

Argument	Conventions

Meets Expectations:
 	
☐ Introduces claim(s)
 	
☐ Organizes the reasons and evidence
   a. Acknowledges alternate or opposing claims
   b. Uses structure to support the writer's purpose *(letter format, essay, speech)*
☐ Supports claim(s)
   a. Uses logical reasoning
   b. Uses relevant evidence
   c. Uses accurate credible sources
☐ Uses appropriate transitions
   a. Clarifies the relationships among claim(s), reasons, and evidence
☐ Provides a conclusion
   a. Statement or section
	Meets Expectations:
	
	☐ Spells correctly
	   a. Domain-specific vocabulary
	   b. Grade-appropriate vocabulary
	☐ Uses correct capitalization
	☐ Uses correct and consistent punctuation
	☐ Uses knowledge of language in writing
	   a. Maintains consistent formal style
	   b. Expresses ideas concisely and precisely

Note: Checklist assumes mastery of skills from previous grades.