

Mississippi Academic Assessment Program

English Language Arts Writing Rubric

Standard ID	Standard	Score of				
		4 points	3 points	2 points	1 point	0 points
W.1-3	Development of Ideas	The writing is clear, consistently focused, and shows a complete understanding of the given task. Ideas are fully developed by using logical and convincing reasoning, well-chosen evidence from the text, and details that are specific, relevant, and accurate based upon the text.	The writing is generally clear and focused, and shows a general understanding of the given task. Ideas are adequately developed by using logical reasoning, sufficient and appropriate evidence from the text, and descriptions and details that are, for the most part, relevant and accurate based upon the text.	The writing is vague and shows only partial understanding of the given task. Ideas are somewhat developed by using some reasoning and some evidence from the text and descriptions and details that may be irrelevant, may be merely listed, and may or may not be found in the text.	The writing is unclear, and shows a lack of understanding of the given task. Ideas are developed with limited reasoning, little to no evidence from the text, and descriptions and details that are irrelevant and/or inaccurate.	The writing is unclear, shows no understanding of the given task, and uses no reasoning with little to no evidence from the text and descriptions and details that are irrelevant and/or inaccurate.
W.1-3	Writing Organization	The writing demonstrates evidence of planning and a purposeful, logical progression of ideas that allows the reader to easily follow the writer's ideas. Words, clauses, and transitions are used frequently and effectively to clarify the relationships among claims, reasons, details, and/or evidence. The writing contains an effective introduction and conclusion that contribute to cohesiveness and clarity of the response.	The writing demonstrates evidence of planning and a progression of ideas that allows the reader to follow the writer's ideas. Words, clauses, and transitions are used effectively to clarify the relationships among claims, reasons, details, and/or evidence. The writing contains an introduction and conclusion that contribute to the cohesiveness of the response.	The writing demonstrates evidence of planning with some logical progression of ideas that allows the reader to follow the writer's ideas. Words, clauses, and transitions are used somewhat consistently to clarify the relationships among claims, reasons, details, and/or evidence. The writing contains a basic introduction and conclusion that contribute to cohesiveness that may be formulaic in structure.	The writing shows an attempt at planning, but the progression of ideas is not always logical, making it more difficult for the reader to follow the writer's message or ideas. Words, clauses, and transitions are used sparingly and sometimes ineffectively to clarify the relationships among claims, reasons, details, and/or evidence. The writing contains an introduction and conclusion that are inappropriate and/or disconnected, resulting in a lack of cohesiveness and clarity.	The writing lacks evidence of planning (random order) or a progression of ideas, making it difficult for the reader to follow the writer's message or ideas. Words, clauses, and transitions are lacking or used ineffectively to clarify the relationships among claims, reasons, details, and/or evidence. There is a lack of an introduction and/or conclusion resulting in a lack of cohesiveness and clarity.
L.1 and .3	Language Conventions of Grammar and Usage			The writing establishes and maintains tone appropriate to task, purpose, and audience. Word choice is precise, effective, and purposeful. Sentences are fluent and varied in length and structure. <i>The writing may contain a few minor errors in grammar and usage, but they do not interfere with meaning.</i>	The writing maintains a tone inappropriate to task, purpose, and/or audience. Word choice is limited, clichéd, and repetitive. Sentences show little or no variety in length and structure, and some may be awkward leading to a monotonous reading. The writing may contain a pattern of errors in grammar and usage that occasionally impedes meaning.	The writing fails to maintain tone appropriate to task, purpose, and audience. Words are functional and simple and/or may be inappropriate to the task. The sentences may contain errors in construction or are simple and lack variety, making the essay difficult to read. The writing may contain egregious errors in grammar and usage that impede meaning.
L.2	Language Conventions of Mechanics			The writing demonstrates a consistent command of the conventions of standard English (punctuation, capitalization, spelling). The writing may contain a few minor errors in <i>mechanics</i> but they do not interfere with meaning.	The writing demonstrates an inconsistent command of the conventions of standard English (punctuation, capitalization, spelling). The writing may contain a pattern of errors in <i>mechanics</i> that occasionally impedes meaning.	The writing demonstrates very limited command of the conventions of standard English (punctuation, capitalization, spelling). The writing may contain egregious errors in <i>mechanics</i> that impede meaning.