

**Colorado Model Content Standards for Reading and Writing
correlated to
Merit Software Process Writing Programs**

The ability to communicate clearly -- to read, write, speak, and listen -- forms the core of human culture. Reading, writing, speaking, and listening skills are essential tools for learning, for success in the workplace, for enriching and expanding our lives, and for responsible citizenship. Language skills are particularly critical in the area of education. Through language abilities, students understand the academic content areas. Success in learning is grounded in students acquiring solid knowledge and skills in reading, writing, speaking, and listening. The Colorado Model Content Standards set high expectations in these areas for all students.

Merit’s Process Writing programs address the following Colorado Model Content Standards for Reading and Writing:

- Grades 3-4 pg. 1-2
- Grade 5 pg. 2-3
- Grade 6 pg. 3
- Grade 7 pg. 3
- Grade 8 pg. 4-5
- Grade 9 pg. 5
- Grade 10 pg. 6
- Grade 11 pg.7
- Grade 12 pg. 7

Grades 3-4

Subhead	Standard	Grade Level Expectation	Merit Software
Writing	Students write and speak for a variety of purposes and audiences.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • organizing their speaking and writing 	Starter Paragraph Punch, Paragraph Punch, Writing About Reading
Writing	Students write and speak for a variety of purposes and audiences.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • choosing vocabulary that communicates their messages clearly and precisely 	Starter Paragraph Punch, Paragraph Punch, Writing about Reading
Writing	Students write and speak for a variety of purposes and audiences.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • revising and editing speech and writing 	Starter Paragraph Punch, Paragraph Punch, Writing about Reading

Writing	Students write and speak for a variety of purposes and audiences.	• creating readable documents with legible handwriting or word processing at the appropriate time.	Starter Paragraph Punch, Paragraph Punch, Writing about Reading
Writing	Students write and speak using conventional grammar, usage, sentence structure, punctuation, capitalization, and spelling.	• knowing and using correct capitalization, punctuation, and abbreviations	Starter Paragraph Punch, Paragraph Punch, Writing about Reading
Writing	Students write and speak using conventional grammar, usage, sentence structure, punctuation, capitalization, and spelling.	• spelling frequently used words correctly using phonics rules and exceptions.	Starter Paragraph Punch, Paragraph Punch, Writing about Reading

Grade 5

Subhead	Standard	Grade Level Expectation	Merit Software
Writing	Students write and speak for a variety of purposes and audiences.	• generate topics and develop ideas for a variety of writing and speaking purposes (for example, telling a story, publishing a class newsletter, writing a letter to an adult, writing or orally presenting a book report, creating and producing a play, introducing a speaker or an event, narrating a presentation, writing a summary);	Paragraph Punch, Writing about Reading
Writing	Students write and speak for a variety of purposes and audiences.	• organize their writing so that there is an introduction, logical arrangement of ideas, and a conclusion;	Paragraph Punch, Writing about Reading
Writing	Students write and speak for a variety of purposes and audiences.	• use transitions to link ideas;	Paragraph Punch, Writing about Reading
Writing	Students write and speak for a variety of purposes and audiences.	• revise drafts by adding, elaborating, deleting, combining, and rearranging text;	Paragraph Punch, Writing about Reading
Writing	Students write and speak for a variety of purposes and audiences.	• revise drafts for coherence, progression, and logical support;	Paragraph Punch, Writing about Reading
Writing	Students write and speak for a variety of purposes and audiences.	• edit drafts for specific purposes such as to ensure standard usage, varied sentence structure, and appropriate word choice;	Paragraph Punch, Writing about Reading

Writing	Students write and speak for a variety of purposes and audiences.	• create readable documents with legible handwriting or word processing at the appropriate time.	Paragraph Punch, Writing about Reading
Writing	Students write and speak using conventional grammar, usage, sentence structure, punctuation, capitalization, and spelling.	• write in complete sentences varying the types such as compound and complex, and using appropriately punctuated dependent clauses;	Paragraph Punch, Writing about Reading

Grade 6

Subhead	Standard	Grade Level Expectation	Merit Software
Writing	Students write and speak for a variety of purposes and audiences.	• generate topics and develop ideas for a variety of writing and speaking purposes (for example, telling a story, publishing a class newsletter, writing a letter to an adult, writing or orally presenting a book report, creating and producing a play, introducing a speaker or an event, narrating a presentation, writing a summary);	Paragraph Punch, Writing about Reading
Writing	Students write and speak for a variety of purposes and audiences.	• organize their writing so that there is an introduction, logical arrangement of ideas, and a conclusion;	Paragraph Punch, Writing about Reading
Writing	Students write and speak for a variety of purposes and audiences.	• use transitions to link ideas;	Paragraph Punch, Writing about Reading
Writing	Students write and speak for a variety of purposes and audiences.	• revise drafts by adding, elaborating, deleting, combining, and rearranging text;	Paragraph Punch, Writing about Reading
Writing	Students write and speak for a variety of purposes and audiences.	• revise drafts for coherence, progression, and logical support;	Paragraph Punch, Writing about Reading
Writing	Students write and speak for a variety of purposes and audiences.	• edit drafts for specific purposes such as to ensure standard usage, varied sentence structure, and appropriate word choice;	Paragraph Punch, Writing about Reading
Writing	Students write and speak for a variety of purposes and audiences.	• create readable documents with legible handwriting or word processing at the appropriate time.	Paragraph Punch, Writing about Reading
Writing	Students write and speak using conventional grammar, usage, sentence structure, punctuation, capitalization, and spelling.	• write in complete sentences varying the types such as compound and complex, and using appropriately punctuated dependent clauses;	Paragraph Punch, Writing about Reading

Grade 7

Subhead	Standard	Grade Level Expectation	Merit Software
Writing	Students write and speak for a variety of purposes and audiences.	• write in a variety of genres such as personal narratives, informational brochures, essays, stories, and letters for specific purposes such as to entertain, to persuade, and to inform;	Paragraph Punch, Essay Punch, Writing about Reading
Writing	Students write and speak for a variety of purposes and audiences.	• develop ideas and content with significant details, examples, and/or reasons;	Paragraph Punch, Essay Punch, Writing about Reading
Writing	Students write and speak for a variety of purposes and audiences.	• organize ideas so that there is an inviting introduction, logical arrangement of ideas, and a satisfying conclusion;	Paragraph Punch, Essay Punch, Writing about Reading
Writing	Students write and speak for a variety of purposes and audiences.	• use transitions to link ideas;	Paragraph Punch, Essay Punch, Writing about Reading
Writing	Students write and speak for a variety of purposes and audiences.	• plan, draft, revise, and edit for a legible final copy;	Paragraph Punch, Essay Punch, Writing about Reading
Writing	Students write and speak for a variety of purposes and audiences.	• use a variety of sentence structures with varied length;	Paragraph Punch, Essay Punch, Writing about Reading
Writing	Students write and speak for a variety of purposes and audiences.	• write with a voice appropriate to purpose and audience;	Paragraph Punch, Essay Punch, Writing about Reading
Writing	Students write and speak for a variety of purposes and audiences.	• choose a range of words that are precise and vivid.	Paragraph Punch, Essay Punch, Writing about Reading
Writing	Students write and speak using conventional grammar, usage, sentence structure, punctuation, capitalization, and spelling.	• use paragraphs correctly so that each paragraph is differentiated by indenting or blocking and includes one major but focused idea;	Essay Punch

Grade 8

Subhead	Standard	Grade Level Expectation	Merit Software
Writing	Students write and speak for a variety of purposes and audiences.	• write stories, letters, and reports with greater detail and supporting material;	Paragraph Punch, Essay Punch, Writing about Reading
Writing	Students write and speak for a variety of purposes and audiences.	• draft, revise, edit, and proofread for a legible final copy;	Paragraph Punch, Essay Punch, Writing about Reading

Writing	Students write and speak for a variety of purposes and audiences.	• apply skills in analysis, synthesis, evaluation, and explanation to their writing	Paragraph Punch, Essay Punch, Writing about Reading
Writing	Students write and speak using conventional grammar, usage, sentence structure, punctuation, capitalization, and spelling.	• use simple, compound, complex, and compound/complex sentences in writing and speaking;	Paragraph Punch, Essay Punch, Writing about Reading

Grade 9

Subhead	Standard	Grade Level Expectation	Merit Software
Writing	Students write and speak for a variety of purposes and audiences.	• write in a variety of genres including expository, technical, persuasive, narrative, and descriptive for specific purposes (for example, to synthesize, analyze, evaluate, explain, persuade, inform, and entertain);	Paragraph Punch, Essay Punch, Writing about Reading, Writing for Business
Writing	Students write and speak for a variety of purposes and audiences.	• plan, draft, revise, and edit for a final copy;	Paragraph Punch, Essay Punch, Writing about Reading, Writing for Business
Writing	Students write and speak for a variety of purposes and audiences.	• use the format, voice, and style appropriate for audience and purpose;	Paragraph Punch, Essay Punch, Writing about Reading, Writing for Business
Writing	Students write and speak for a variety of purposes and audiences.	• develop main ideas and content fully focused on a prompt with relevant, thorough, and effective support;	Paragraph Punch, Essay Punch, Writing about Reading, Writing for Business
Writing	Students write and speak for a variety of purposes and audiences.	• organize writing so that it has an engaging introduction, logical and effective development of ideas, and a satisfying conclusion;	Paragraph Punch, Essay Punch, Writing about Reading, Writing for Business
Writing	Students write and speak for a variety of purposes and audiences.	• use transitional devices (for example, adverbs, coordinating conjunctions, subordinating conjunctions) where appropriate;	Paragraph Punch, Essay Punch, Writing about Reading, Writing for Business
Writing	Students write and speak for a variety of purposes and audiences.	• vary sentence structures and lengths to enhance flow, rhythm, meaning, and clarity;	Paragraph Punch, Essay Punch, Writing about Reading, Writing for Business
Writing	Students write and speak for a variety of purposes and audiences.	• use vivid and precise words (for example, active verbs, concrete nouns), imagery, and figurative language as appropriate to audience and purpose.	Paragraph Punch, Essay Punch, Writing about Reading, Writing for Business

Writing	Students read and recognize literature as a record of human experience.	• develop a thesis statement about a particular text and provide support from the text.	Writing about Reading
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Grade 10

Subhead	Standard	Grade Level Expectation	Merit Software
Writing	Students write and speak for a variety of purposes and audiences.	• write in a variety of genres including expository, technical, persuasive, narrative, and descriptive for specific purposes (for example, to synthesize, analyze, evaluate, explain, persuade, inform, and entertain);	Paragraph Punch, Essay Punch, Writing about Reading, Writing for Business
Writing	Students write and speak for a variety of purposes and audiences.	• plan, draft, revise, and edit for a final copy;	Paragraph Punch, Essay Punch, Writing about Reading, Writing for Business
Writing	Students write and speak for a variety of purposes and audiences.	• use the format, voice, and style appropriate for audience and purpose;	Paragraph Punch, Essay Punch, Writing about Reading, Writing for Business
Writing	Students write and speak for a variety of purposes and audiences.	• develop main ideas and content fully focused on a prompt with relevant, thorough, and effective support;	Paragraph Punch, Essay Punch, Writing about Reading, Writing for Business
Writing	Students write and speak for a variety of purposes and audiences.	• organize writing so that it has an engaging introduction, logical and effective development of ideas, and a satisfying conclusion;	Paragraph Punch, Essay Punch, Writing about Reading, Writing for Business
Writing	Students write and speak for a variety of purposes and audiences.	• vary sentence structures and lengths to enhance flow, rhythm, meaning, and clarity;	Paragraph Punch, Essay Punch, Writing about Reading, Writing for Business
Writing	Students write and speak for a variety of purposes and audiences.	• use vivid and precise words (for example, active verbs, concrete nouns), imagery, and figurative language as appropriate to audience and purpose.	Paragraph Punch, Essay Punch, Writing about Reading, Writing for Business
Writing	Students read and recognize literature as a record of human experience.	• develop a thesis statement about a particular text and provide support from the text.	Writing about Reading

Grade 11

Subhead	Standard	Grade Level Expectation	Merit Software
Writing	Students write and speak for a variety of purposes and audiences.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • support an opinion using various forms of persuasion (factual or emotional) in speaking and writing; 	Essay Punch, Writing for Business

Grade 12

Subhead	Standard	Grade Level Expectation	Merit Software
Writing	Students write and speak for a variety of purposes and audiences.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • support an opinion using various forms of persuasion (factual or emotional) in speaking and writing; 	Essay Punch