

**North Carolina State Standards  
correlated to  
Merit Software Process Writing Programs**

The revised curriculum (1999) is based upon surveys of the effectiveness of the previous curriculum, current educational research, and input from public school teachers, administrators, college and university faculties, parents, and business and community leaders. In addition, the revised curriculum is based on national curriculum standards developed jointly by the National Council of Teachers of English and the International Reading Association and on language arts standards developed by the National Assessment of Educational Progress.

The *North Carolina English Language Arts Standard Course of Study* clearly defines a curriculum supporting the ABC's school reform effort as well as the North Carolina Testing Program. These revisions maintain a forward focus by looking at what students will need to know and to be able to do as successful and contributing citizens in our state and nation in the years ahead.

Merit's Process Writing programs address the following North Carolina State Standards:

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Grade 3

Subhead	Competency Goals	Objectives	Benchmarks	Merit Software
Writing	Competency Goal 4 The learner will apply strategies and skills to create oral, written, and visual texts.	4.02 Use oral and written language to:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• present information in a sequenced, logical manner.</li> <li>• discuss.</li> <li>• sustain conversation on a topic.</li> <li>• share information and ideas.</li> <li>• recount or narrate.</li> <li>• answer open-ended questions.</li> <li>• report information on a topic.</li> <li>• explain own learning.</li> </ul>	Starter Paragraph Punch, Paragraph Punch, Writing About Reading
Writing	Competency Goal 4 The learner will apply strategies and skills to create oral, written, and visual texts.	4.04 Use planning strategies (with assistance) to generate topics and to organize ideas (e.g., drawing, mapping, discussing, listing).		Starter Paragraph Punch, Paragraph Punch, Writing About Reading
Writing	Competency Goal 4 The learner will apply strategies and skills to create oral, written, and visual texts.	4.05 Identify (with assistance) the purpose, the audience, and the appropriate form for the oral or written task.		Starter Paragraph Punch, Paragraph Punch, Writing About Reading
Writing	Competency Goal 4 The learner will apply strategies and skills to create oral, written, and visual texts.	4.06 Compose a draft that conveys major ideas and maintains focus on the topic by using preliminary plans.		Starter Paragraph Punch, Paragraph Punch, Writing About Reading
Writing	Competency Goal 4 The learner will apply strategies and skills to create oral, written, and visual texts.	4.08 Focus reflection and revision (with assistance) on target elements by:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• clarifying ideas.</li> <li>• adding descriptive words and phrases.</li> <li>• sequencing events and ideas.</li> <li>• combining short, related sentences.</li> <li>• strengthening word choice.</li> </ul>	Starter Paragraph Punch, Paragraph Punch, Writing About Reading

Writing	Competency Goal 4 The learner will apply strategies and skills to create oral, written, and visual texts.	4.09 Produce work that follows the conventions of particular genres (e.g., personal narrative, short report, friendly letter, directions and instructions).		Starter Paragraph Punch, Paragraph Punch, Writing About Reading
Writing	Competency Goal 4 The learner will apply strategies and skills to create oral, written, and visual texts.	4.10 Explore technology as a tool to create a written product.		Starter Paragraph Punch, Paragraph Punch, Writing About Reading
Writing	Competency Goal 5 The learner will apply grammar and language conventions to communicate effectively.	5.01 Use correct capitalization (e.g., geographical place names, holidays, special events, titles) and punctuation (e.g., commas in greetings, dates, city and state; underlining book titles; periods after initials and abbreviated titles; apostrophes in contractions).		Starter Paragraph Punch, Paragraph Punch, Writing About Reading
Writing	Competency Goal 5 The learner will apply grammar and language conventions to communicate effectively.	5.02 Use correct subject/verb agreement.		Starter Paragraph Punch, Paragraph Punch, Writing About Reading
Writing	Competency Goal 5 The learner will apply grammar and language conventions to communicate effectively.	5.03 Demonstrate understanding by using a variety of complete sentences (declarative, imperative, interrogative, and exclamatory) in writing and speaking.		Starter Paragraph Punch, Paragraph Punch, Writing About Reading
Writing	Competency Goal 5 The learner will apply grammar and language conventions to communicate effectively.	5.04 Compose two or more paragraphs with:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• topic sentences.</li> <li>• supporting details.</li> <li>• appropriate, logical sequence.</li> <li>• sufficient elaboration.</li> </ul>	Starter Paragraph Punch, Paragraph Punch, Writing About Reading
Writing	Competency Goal 5 The learner will apply grammar and language conventions to communicate effectively.	5.06 Proofread own writing for spelling and correct most misspellings		Starter Paragraph Punch, Paragraph Punch, Writing About Reading

Writing	Competency Goal 5 The learner will apply grammar and language conventions to communicate effectively.	5.07 Edit (with assistance) to use conventions of written language and format.		Starter Paragraph Punch, Paragraph Punch, Writing About Reading
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Grade 4

Subhead	Competency Goals	Objectives	Benchmarks	Merit Software
Writing	Competency Goal 4 The learner will apply strategies and skills to create oral, written, and visual texts.	4.02 Use oral and written language to:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>present information and ideas in a clear, concise manner.</li> <li>discuss.</li> <li>interview.</li> <li>solve problems.</li> <li>make decisions.</li> </ul>	Starter Paragraph Punch, Paragraph Punch, Writing About Reading
Writing	Competency Goal 4 The learner will apply strategies and skills to create oral, written, and visual texts.	4.05 Use planning strategies to generate topics and organize ideas (e.g., brainstorming, mapping, webbing, reading, discussion).		Starter Paragraph Punch, Paragraph Punch, Writing About Reading
Writing	Competency Goal 4 The learner will apply strategies and skills to create oral, written, and visual texts.	4.06 Compose a draft that conveys major ideas and maintains focus on the topic with specific, relevant, supporting details by using preliminary plans.		Starter Paragraph Punch, Paragraph Punch, Writing About Reading
Writing	Competency Goal 4 The learner will apply strategies and skills to create oral, written, and visual texts.	4.07 Compose fiction, nonfiction, poetry, and drama using self-selected and assigned topics and forms (e.g., personal and imaginative narratives, research reports, diaries, journals, logs, rules, instructions).		Starter Paragraph Punch, Paragraph Punch, Writing About Reading
Writing	Competency Goal 4 The learner will apply strategies and skills to create oral, written, and visual texts.	4.08 Focus revision on a specific element such as:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>word choice.</li> <li>sequence of events and ideas.</li> <li>transitional words.</li> <li>sentence patterns.</li> </ul>	Starter Paragraph Punch, Paragraph Punch, Writing About Reading

Writing	Competency Goal 5 The learner will apply grammar and language conventions to communicate effectively.	5.01 Use correct capitalization (e.g., geographical place names, holidays, special events, titles) and punctuation (e.g., commas in greetings, dates, city and state; underlining book titles; periods after initials and abbreviated titles; apostrophes in contractions).		Starter Paragraph Punch, Paragraph Punch, Writing About Reading
Writing	Competency Goal 5 The learner will apply grammar and language conventions to communicate effectively.	5.02 Use correct subject/verb agreement.		Starter Paragraph Punch, Paragraph Punch, Writing About Reading
Writing	Competency Goal 5 The learner will apply grammar and language conventions to communicate effectively.	5.03 Demonstrate understanding by using a variety of complete sentences (declarative, imperative, interrogative, and exclamatory) in writing and speaking.		Starter Paragraph Punch, Paragraph Punch, Writing About Reading
Writing	Competency Goal 5 The learner will apply grammar and language conventions to communicate effectively.	5.04 Compose two or more paragraphs with:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• topic sentences.</li> <li>• supporting details.</li> <li>• appropriate, logical sequence.</li> <li>• sufficient elaboration.</li> </ul>	Starter Paragraph Punch, Paragraph Punch, Writing About Reading
Writing	Competency Goal 5 The learner will apply grammar and language conventions to communicate effectively.	5.06 Proofread own writing for spelling and correct most misspellings		Starter Paragraph Punch, Paragraph Punch, Writing About Reading
Writing	Competency Goal 5 The learner will apply grammar and language conventions to communicate effectively.	5.07 Edit (with assistance) to use conventions of written language and format.		Starter Paragraph Punch, Paragraph Punch, Writing About Reading

Grade 5

Subhead	Competency Goals	Objectives	Benchmarks	Merit Software
Writing	Competency Goal 4 The learner will apply strategies and skills to create oral, written, and visual texts.	4.02 Use oral and written language to:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• formulate hypotheses.</li> <li>• evaluate information and ideas.</li> <li>• present and support arguments.</li> <li>• influence the thinking of others.</li> </ul>	Starter Paragraph Punch, Paragraph Punch, Writing About Reading
Writing	Competency Goal 4 The learner will apply strategies and skills to create oral, written, and visual texts.	4.05 Use a variety of preliminary strategies to plan and organize the writing and speaking task considering purpose, audience, and timeline.		Starter Paragraph Punch, Paragraph Punch, Writing About Reading
Writing	Competency Goal 4 The learner will apply strategies and skills to create oral, written, and visual texts.	4.06 Compose a draft that elaborates on major ideas and adheres to the topic by using an appropriate organizational pattern that accomplishes the purpose of the writing task and effectively communicates its content.		Starter Paragraph Punch, Paragraph Punch, Writing About Reading
Writing	Competency Goal 4 The learner will apply strategies and skills to create oral, written, and visual texts.	4.07 Compose a variety of fiction, nonfiction, poetry, and drama using self-selected topic and format (e.g., poetry, research reports, news articles, letters to the editor, business letters).		Starter Paragraph Punch, Paragraph Punch, Writing About Reading
Writing	Competency Goal 4 The learner will apply strategies and skills to create oral, written, and visual texts.	4.08 Focus revision on target elements by:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• improving word choice.</li> <li>• rearranging text for clarity.</li> <li>• creating simple and/or complex sentences for clarity or impact.</li> <li>• developing a lead, characters, or mood.</li> </ul>	Starter Paragraph Punch, Paragraph Punch, Writing About Reading

Writing	Competency Goal 5 The learner will apply grammar and language conventions to communicate effectively.	5.01 Consistently use correct capitalization (e.g., names of magazines, newspapers, organizations) and punctuation (e.g., colon to introduce a list, commas in apposition, commas used in compound sentences).		Starter Paragraph Punch, Paragraph Punch, Writing About Reading
Writing	Competency Goal 5 The learner will apply grammar and language conventions to communicate effectively.	5.02 Demonstrate understanding in speaking and writing by using:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>troublesome verbs.</li> <li>nominative, objective, and possessive pronouns.</li> </ul>	Starter Paragraph Punch, Paragraph Punch, Writing About Reading
Writing	Competency Goal 5 The learner will apply grammar and language conventions to communicate effectively.	5.03 Elaborate information and ideas in speaking and writing by using:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>prepositional phrases.</li> <li>transitions.</li> <li>coordinating and/or subordinating conjunctions.</li> </ul>	Starter Paragraph Punch, Paragraph Punch, Writing About Reading
Writing	Competency Goal 5 The learner will apply grammar and language conventions to communicate effectively.	5.04 Determine the impact of word choice on written and spoken language.		Starter Paragraph Punch, Paragraph Punch, Writing About Reading
Writing	Competency Goal 5 The learner will apply grammar and language conventions to communicate effectively.	5.05 Spell most commonly used words accurately using a multi-strategy approach to the learning of new spellings.		Starter Paragraph Punch, Paragraph Punch, Writing About Reading
Writing	Competency Goal 5 The learner will apply grammar and language conventions to communicate effectively.	5.06 Proofread for accuracy of spelling using appropriate strategies to confirm spelling and to correct errors.		Starter Paragraph Punch, Paragraph Punch, Writing About Reading
Writing	Competency Goal 5 The learner will apply grammar and language conventions to communicate effectively.	5.07 Edit final product for grammar, language conventions, and format.		Starter Paragraph Punch, Paragraph Punch, Writing About Reading

Subhead	Competency Goals	Objectives	Benchmarks	Merit Software
Writing	Competency Goal 3 The learner will refine the understanding and use of argument.	6.01 Demonstrate an understanding of conventional written and spoken expression by:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• using a variety of sentence types correctly, punctuating them properly, and avoiding fragments and run-ons.</li> <li>• determining the meaning of unfamiliar vocabulary words by using context clues, a dictionary, a glossary, a thesaurus, and/or structural analysis (roots, of standard English to appreciate appropriate usage in different contexts.</li> <li>• prefixes, suffixes) of words.</li> <li>• extending vocabulary knowledge by learning and using new words.</li> <li>• exploring the role and use of dialects and of standard English to appreciate appropriate usage in different contexts.</li> </ul>	Essay Punch, Paragraph Punch, Writing About Reading
Writing	Competency Goal 3 The learner will refine the understanding and use of argument.	6.02 Identify and edit errors in spoken and written English by:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• reviewing and using common spelling rules, applying common spelling patterns, and developing and mastering an individualized list of words that are commonly misspelled.</li> <li>• applying proofreading symbols when editing.</li> <li>• producing final drafts that demonstrate accurate spelling and the correct use of punctuation and capitalization.</li> <li>• developing an awareness of errors in everyday speech</li> </ul>	Essay Punch, Paragraph Punch, Writing About Reading

Grade 7

Subhead	Competency Goals	Objectives	Benchmarks	Merit Software
Writing	Competency Goal 3 The learner will refine the understanding and use of argument.	3.03 Create arguments that evaluate by:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>stating a firm judgment.</li> <li>justifying the judgment with logical, relevant reasons, clear examples, and supporting details.</li> </ul>	Essay Punch, Paragraph Punch, Writing About Reading
Writing	Competency Goal 3 The learner will refine the understanding and use of argument.	3.03 Create arguments that evaluate by:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>creating an organizing structure appropriate to purpose, audience, and context.</li> </ul>	Essay Punch, Paragraph Punch, Writing About Reading

Grade 8

Subhead	Competency Goals	Objectives	Benchmarks	Merit Software
Writing	Competency Goal 1 The learner will use language to express individual perspectives through analysis of personal, social, cultural, and historical issues.	1.01 Narrate a personal account which:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>*creates a coherent, organizing structure appropriate to purpose, audience, and context.</li> <li>*establishes a point of view and sharpens focus.</li> <li>*uses remembered feelings.</li> <li>*selects details that best illuminate the topic.</li> <li>*connects events to self/society.</li> </ul>	Essay Punch
Writing	Competency Goal 3 The learner will continue to refine the understanding and use of argument.	3.03 Create arguments that persuade by:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>*developing a controlling idea that makes a clear and knowledgeable judgment.</li> <li>*arranging details, reasons, and examples effectively and persuasively.</li> </ul>	Paragraph Punch, Essay Punch, Writing about Reading

Grade 9

Subhead	Competency Goals	Objectives	Benchmarks	Merit Software
Writing	Competency Goal 1 The learner will express reflections and reactions to print and non-print text and personal experiences.	1.01 Narrate personal experiences that offer an audience:	*scenes and incidents located effectively in time and place. * impressions of being in a setting and a sense of engagement in the events occurring. *appreciation for the significance of the account. *a sense of the narrator's personal voice.	Essay Punch
Writing	Competency Goal 3 The learner will examine argumentation and develop informed opinions.	3.02 Express an informed opinion that:	*states clearly a personal view. *is logical and coherent.	Paragraph Punch, Essay Punch, Writing about Reading, Writing for Business
Writing	Competency Goal 3 The learner will examine argumentation and develop informed opinions.	3.03 Support that informed opinion by:	*providing relevant and convincing reasons. *using various types of evidence, such as experience or facts.	Paragraph Punch, Essay Punch, Writing about Reading, Writing for Business

Grade 10

Subhead	Competency Goals	Objectives	Benchmarks	Merit Software
Writing	Competency Goal 1 The learner will react to and reflect upon print and non-print text and personal experiences by examining situations from both subjective and objective perspectives.	1.01 Produce reminiscences (about a person, event, object, place, animal) that engage the audience by:	*using specific and sensory details with purpose. *explaining the significance of the reminiscence from an objective perspective. *moving effectively between past and present.	Essay Punch
Writing	Competency Goal 1 The learner will react to and reflect upon print and non-print text and personal experiences by examining situations from both subjective and objective perspectives.	1.02 Respond reflectively (through small group discussion, class discussion, journal entry, essay, letter, dialogue) to written and visual texts by:	relating personal knowledge to textual information or class discussion.	Writing About Reading

Writing	Competency Goal 2 The learner will evaluate problems, examine cause/effect relationships, and answer research questions to inform an audience.	2.01 Create responses that evaluate problems and offer solutions to a reader/listener by:	*clearly stating the problem and relevant issues surrounding it. *determining the significance of the problem. *focusing on a neutral but specific audience. *logically organizing the solutions for a specific audience. *offering and evaluating effective solutions. *creating a sense of resolution or closure.	Essay Punch, Writing for Business
Writing	Competency Goal 2 The learner will evaluate problems, examine cause/effect relationships, and answer research questions to inform an audience.	2.02 Create responses that examine a cause/effect relationship among events by:	*effectively summarizing situations. *showing a clear, logical connection among events. *logically organizing connections by transitioning between points.	Essay Punch, Writing for Business
Writing	Competency Goal 4 The learner will critically interpret and evaluate experiences, literature, language, and ideas.	4.01 Interpret a real-world event in a way that:	*makes generalizations about the event supported by specific references. *reflects on observation and shows how the event affected the current viewpoint.	Essay Punch, Writing for Business, Writing about Reading
Writing	Competency Goal 6 The learner will apply conventions of grammar and language usage.	6.01 Demonstrate an understanding of conventional written and spoken expression by:	using correct form/format for essays, business letters, research papers, bibliographies.	Essay Punch, Writing for Business, Business Letter Punch

Grade 11

Subhead	Competency Goals	Objectives	Benchmarks	Merit Software
Writing	Competency Goal 1 The learner will demonstrate increasing insight and reflection to print and non-print text through personal expression.	1.01 Create memoirs that give an audience a sense of how the past can be significant for the present by:	*elaborating upon a significant past episode from the student's current perspective. *projecting the student's voice in the work through reflective interpretation of relationships to people and events.	Essay Punch
Writing	Competency Goal 3 The learner will demonstrate increasing sophistication in defining issues and using argument effectively.	3.01 Use language persuasively in addressing a particular issue by:	establishing and defending a point of view.	Essay Punch

Writing	Competency Goal 3 The learner will demonstrate increasing sophistication in defining issues and using argument effectively.	3.02 Select an issue or theme and take a stance on that issue by:	supporting the argument with specific reasons.	Essay Punch
Writing	Competency Goal 3 The learner will demonstrate increasing sophistication in defining issues and using argument effectively.	3.03 Use argumentation for:	establishing and defending a point of view.	Essay Punch
Writing	Competency Goal 6 The learner will apply conventions of grammar and language usage.	6.01 Demonstrate an understanding of the conventions of language by:	revising writing to enhance voice and style, sentence variety, subtlety of meaning, and tone in considerations of questions being addressed, purpose, audience, and genres.	Essay Punch

Grade 12

Subhead	Competency Goals	Objectives	Benchmarks	Merit Software
Writing	Competency Goal 2 The learner will inform an audience by exploring general principles at work in life and literature.	2.03 Compose texts (in print and non-print media) that help the audience understand a principle or theory by:	presenting a thesis, supporting it, and considering alternative perspectives on the topic.	Essay Punch