

**Pennsylvania Academic Standards  
correlated to  
Merit Software Process Writing Programs**

Revised in January 2003, the Reading, Writing, Speaking and Listening Standards describe what students should know and be able to do with the English language at four grade levels (third, fifth, eighth and eleventh). The standards provide the targets for instruction and student learning essential for success in all academic areas, not just language arts classrooms. Although the standards are not a curriculum or a prescribed series of activities, school entities will use them to develop a local school curriculum that will meet local students' needs.

Merit's Process Writing programs address the following Pennsylvania Academic Standards:

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Grade 3

Subhead	Content	Standard	Benchmark	Merit Software
Writing	1.4. Types of Writing	1.4.3. A. Write narrative pieces (e.g., stories, poems, plays).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Include detailed descriptions of people, place and things.</li> <li>• Use relevant illustrations.</li> <li>• Include literary elements</li> </ul>	Starter Paragraph Punch, Paragraph Punch, Writing About Reading
Writing	1.4. Types of Writing	1.4.3.B Write informational pieces (e.g., descriptions, letters, reports, instructions) using illustrations when relevant.		Starter Paragraph Punch, Paragraph Punch, Writing About Reading
Writing	1.4. Types of Writing	1.4.3.C. Write an opinion and support it with facts.		Starter Paragraph Punch, Paragraph Punch, Writing About Reading
Writing	1.5. Quality of Writing	1.5.3.A. Write with a sharp, distinct focus identifying topic, task and audience.		Starter Paragraph Punch, Paragraph Punch, Writing About Reading

Writing	1.5. Quality of Writing	1.5.3.B. Write using well-developed content appropriate for the topic.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Gather, organize and select the most effective information appropriate for the topic, task and audience.</li> <li>• Write paragraphs that have a topic sentence and supporting details.</li> </ul>	Starter Paragraph Punch, Paragraph Punch, Writing About Reading
Writing	1.5. Quality of Writing	1.5.3.C. Write with controlled and/or subtle organization.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sustain a logical order.</li> <li>• Include a recognizable beginning, middle and end.</li> </ul>	Starter Paragraph Punch, Paragraph Punch, Writing About Reading
Writing	1.5. Quality of Writing	1.5.3.D. Write with an understanding of the stylistic aspects of composition.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Use sentences of differing lengths and complexities.</li> <li>• Use descriptive words and action verbs.</li> </ul>	Starter Paragraph Punch, Paragraph Punch, Writing About Reading
Writing	1.5. Quality of Writing	1.5.3.E. Revise writing to improve detail and order by identifying missing information and determining whether ideas follow logically.		Starter Paragraph Punch, Paragraph Punch, Writing About Reading
Writing	1.5. Quality of Writing	1.5.3.F. Edit writing using the conventions of language.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Spell common, frequently used words correctly.</li> <li>• Use capital letters correctly (first word in sentences, proper nouns, pronoun "I").</li> <li>• Punctuate correctly (periods, exclamation points, question marks, commas in a series).</li> <li>• Use nouns, pronouns, verbs, adjectives, adverbs and conjunctions properly.</li> <li>• Use complete sentences (simple, compound, declarative, interrogative, exclamatory and imperative).</li> </ul>	Starter Paragraph Punch, Paragraph Punch, Writing About Reading
Writing	1.5. Quality of Writing	1.5.3.G. Present and/or defend written work for publication when appropriate.		Starter Paragraph Punch, Paragraph Punch, Writing About Reading

Subhead	Content	Standard	Benchmark	Merit Software
Writing	1.4. Types of Writing	1.4.5.A. Write poems, plays and multi-paragraph stories.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Include detailed descriptions of people, places and things.</li> <li>• Use relevant illustrations.</li> <li>• Utilize dialogue.</li> <li>• Apply literary conflict.</li> <li>• Include literary elements (Standard 1.3.5.B.)</li> <li>• Use literary devices (Standard 1.3.5.C.)</li> </ul>	Starter Paragraph Punch, Paragraph Punch, Writing About Reading
Writing	1.4. Types of Writing	1.4.5.B. Write multi-paragraph informational pieces (e.g. essays, descriptions, letters, reports, instructions ).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Include cause and effect.</li> <li>• Develop a problem and solution when appropriate to the topic.</li> <li>• Use relevant graphics (e.g., maps, charts, graphs, tables, illustrations, photographs).</li> </ul>	Starter Paragraph Punch, Paragraph Punch, Writing About Reading
Writing	1.4. Types of Writing	1.4.5.C. Write persuasive pieces.		Starter Paragraph Punch, Paragraph Punch, Writing About Reading
Writing	1.5. Quality of Writing	1.5.5.A. Write with a sharp, distinct focus identifying topic, task and audience.		Starter Paragraph Punch, Paragraph Punch, Writing About Reading
Writing	1.5. Quality of Writing	1.5.5.B. Write using well-developed content appropriate for the topic.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Gather, organize and select the most effective information appropriate for the topic, task and audience.</li> <li>• Write paragraphs that have a topic sentence and supporting details.</li> </ul>	Starter Paragraph Punch, Paragraph Punch, Writing About Reading
Writing	1.5. Quality of Writing	1.5.5.C. Write with controlled and/or subtle organization.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sustain a logical order within sentences and between paragraphs using meaningful transitions.</li> <li>• Include an identifiable introduction, body and conclusion.</li> </ul>	Starter Paragraph Punch, Paragraph Punch, Writing About Reading

Writing	1.5. Quality of Writing	1.5.5.D. Write with an understanding of the stylistic aspects of composition.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Use different types and lengths of sentences.</li> <li>• Use precise language including adjectives, adverbs, action verbs and specific details that convey the writer’s meaning.</li> <li>• Develop and maintain a consistent voice.</li> </ul>	Starter Paragraph Punch, Paragraph Punch, Writing About Reading
Writing	1.5. Quality of Writing	1.5.5.E. Revise writing to improve organization and word choice; check the logic, order of ideas and precision of vocabulary.		Starter Paragraph Punch, Paragraph Punch, Writing About Reading
Writing	1.5. Quality of Writing	1.5.5.F. Edit writing using the conventions of language.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Spell common, frequently used words correctly.</li> <li>• Use capital letters correctly.</li> <li>• Punctuate correctly (periods, exclamation points, question marks, commas, quotation marks, apostrophes).</li> <li>• Use nouns, pronouns, verbs, adjectives, adverbs, conjunctions, prepositions and interjections properly.</li> <li>• Use complete sentences (simple, compound, declarative, interrogative, exclamatory and imperative).</li> </ul>	Starter Paragraph Punch, Paragraph Punch, Writing About Reading
Writing	1.5. Quality of Writing	1.5.5.G. Present and/or defend written work for publication when appropriate.		Starter Paragraph Punch, Paragraph Punch, Writing About Reading

Subhead	Content	Standard	Benchmark	Merit Software
Writing	1.4. Types of Writing	1.4.8.B Write multi-paragraph informational pieces (e.g., letters, descriptions, reports, instructions, essays, articles, interviews).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Include cause and effect.</li> </ul>	Paragraph Punch, Essay Punch, Writing about Reading
Writing	1.4. Types of Writing	1.4.8.B Write multi-paragraph informational pieces (e.g., letters, descriptions, reports, instructions, essays, articles, interviews).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Develop a problem and solution when appropriate to the topic.</li> </ul>	Essay Punch
Writing	1.4. Types of Writing	1.4.8.C. Write persuasive pieces.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Include a clearly stated position or opinion.</li> <li>• Include convincing, elaborated and properly cited evidence.</li> <li>• Develop reader interest.</li> <li>• Anticipate and counter reader concerns and arguments.</li> </ul>	Paragraph Punch, Essay Punch, Writing about Reading
Writing	1.5. Quality of Writing	1.5.8.A. Write with a sharp, distinct focus.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Identify topic, task and audience.</li> <li>• Establish a single point of view.</li> </ul>	Paragraph Punch, Essay Punch, Writing about Reading
Writing	1.5. Quality of Writing	1.5.8.B. Write using well-developed content appropriate for the topic.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Write paragraphs that have details and information specific to the topic and relevant to the focus.</li> </ul>	Paragraph Punch, Essay Punch, Writing about Reading
Writing	1.5. Quality of Writing	1.5.8.C. Write with controlled and/or subtle organization.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sustain a logical order within sentences and between paragraphs using meaningful transitions.</li> </ul>	Paragraph Punch, Essay Punch, Writing about Reading
Writing	1.5. Quality of Writing	1.5.8.C. Write with controlled and/or subtle organization.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Establish topic and purpose in the introduction.</li> </ul>	Essay Punch, Writing about Reading
Writing	1.5. Quality of Writing	1.5.8.C. Write with controlled and/or subtle organization.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reiterate the topic and purpose in the conclusion.</li> </ul>	Essay Punch, Writing about Reading
Writing	1.5. Quality of Writing	1.5.8.D. Write with an understanding of the stylistic aspects of composition.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Use different types and lengths of sentences.</li> </ul>	Paragraph Punch, Essay Punch, Writing about Reading

Writing	1.5. Quality of Writing	1.5.8.E. Revise writing after rethinking logic of organization and rechecking central idea, content, paragraph development, level of detail, style, tone and word choice.		Paragraph Punch, Essay Punch, Writing about Reading
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Grades 9-11

Subhead	Content	Standard	Benchmark	Merit Software
Reading	1.3. Reading, Analyzing and Interpreting Literature	1.3.11.F. Read and respond to nonfiction and fiction including poetry and drama		Writing About Reading
Writing	1.4. Types of Writing	1.4.11.B. Write complex informational pieces (e.g., research papers, analyses, evaluations, essays).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Include a variety of methods to develop the main idea.</li> </ul>	Paragraph Punch, Essay Punch, Writing about Reading
Writing	1.4. Types of Writing	1.4.11.B. Write complex informational pieces (e.g., research papers, analyses, evaluations, essays).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Use precise language and specific detail.</li> </ul>	Paragraph Punch, Essay Punch, Writing about Reading
Writing	1.4. Types of Writing	1.4.11.B. Write complex informational pieces (e.g., research papers, analyses, evaluations, essays).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Include cause and effect.</li> </ul>	Paragraph Punch, Essay Punch, Writing about Reading
Writing	1.4. Types of Writing	1.4.11.C. Write persuasive pieces.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Include a clearly stated position or opinion.</li> <li>• Include convincing, elaborated and properly cited evidence.</li> <li>• Anticipate and counter reader concerns and arguments.</li> <li>• Include a variety of methods to advance the argument or position</li> </ul>	Paragraph Punch, Essay Punch, Writing for Business
Writing	1.5. Quality of Writing	1.5.11.A. Write with a sharp, distinct focus	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Identify topic, task and audience.</li> </ul>	Paragraph Punch, Essay Punch, Writing for Business
Writing	1.5. Quality of Writing	1.5.11.A. Write with a sharp, distinct focus	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Establish and maintain a single point of view</li> </ul>	Paragraph Punch, Essay Punch, Writing for Business
Writing	1.5. Quality of Writing	1.5.11.B. Write using well-developed content appropriate for the topic.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Write fully developed paragraphs that have details and information specific to the topic and relevant to the focus.</li> </ul>	Paragraph Punch, Essay Punch, Writing for Business

Writing	1.5. Quality of Writing	1.5.11.C. Write with controlled and/or subtle organization.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Sustain a logical order throughout the piece.</li> </ul>	Paragraph Punch, Essay Punch, Writing for Business
Writing	1.5. Quality of Writing	1.5.11.C. Write with controlled and/or subtle organization.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Include an effective introduction and conclusion</li> </ul>	Essay Punch
Writing	1.5. Quality of Writing	1.5.11.D. Write with a command of the stylistic aspects of composition.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Use different types and lengths of sentences.</li> </ul>	Paragraph Punch, Essay Punch, Writing for Business
Writing	1.5. Quality of Writing	1.5.11.D. Write with a command of the stylistic aspects of composition.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Use precise language.</li> </ul>	Paragraph Punch, Essay Punch, Writing for Business
Writing	1.5. Quality of Writing	1.5.11.E. Revise writing to improve style, word choice, sentence variety and subtlety of meaning after rethinking how questions of purpose, audience and genre have been addressed.		Paragraph Punch, Essay Punch, Writing for Business