

**Virginia State Standards
correlated to
Merit Software Process Writing Programs**

Adopted in November 2002 by the state Board of Education, the Standards of Learning set reasonable targets and expectations for what teachers need to teach and students need to learn. The standards are not intended to encompass the entire curriculum for a given grade level or course or to prescribe how the content should be taught; the standards are to be incorporated into a broader, locally designed curriculum. Teachers are encouraged to go beyond the standards and select instructional strategies and assessment methods appropriate for their students.

Merit’s Process Writing programs address the following Virginia Standards:

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Grade 3

Subhead	Standard	Benchmark	Merit Software
Writing	3.9 The student will write descriptive paragraphs.	a) Develop a plan for writing.	Starter Paragraph Punch, Paragraph Punch, Writing About Reading
Writing	3.9 The student will write descriptive paragraphs.	b) Focus on a central idea.	Starter Paragraph Punch, Paragraph Punch, Writing About Reading
Writing	3.9 The student will write descriptive paragraphs.	c) Group related ideas.	Starter Paragraph Punch, Paragraph Punch, Writing About Reading
Writing	3.9 The student will write descriptive paragraphs.	d) Include descriptive details that elaborate the central idea.	Starter Paragraph Punch, Paragraph Punch, Writing About Reading
Writing	3.9 The student will write descriptive paragraphs.	e) Revise writing for clarity.	Starter Paragraph Punch, Paragraph Punch, Writing About Reading

Writing	3.10 The student will write stories, letters, simple explanations, and short reports across all content areas.	a) Use a variety of planning strategies.	Starter Paragraph Punch, Paragraph Punch, Writing About Reading
Writing	3.10 The student will write stories, letters, simple explanations, and short reports across all content areas.	b) Organize information according to the type of writing.	Starter Paragraph Punch, Paragraph Punch, Writing About Reading
Writing	3.10 The student will write stories, letters, simple explanations, and short reports across all content areas.	c) Identify the intended audience.	Starter Paragraph Punch, Paragraph Punch, Writing About Reading
Writing	3.10 The student will write stories, letters, simple explanations, and short reports across all content areas.	d) Revise writing for specific vocabulary and information.	Starter Paragraph Punch, Paragraph Punch, Writing About Reading
Writing	3.10 The student will write stories, letters, simple explanations, and short reports across all content areas.	e) Use available technology.	Starter Paragraph Punch, Paragraph Punch, Writing About Reading
Writing	3.11 The student will edit writing for correct grammar, capitalization, punctuation, and spelling.	a) Use complete and varied sentences.	Starter Paragraph Punch, Paragraph Punch, Writing About Reading
Writing	3.11 The student will edit writing for correct grammar, capitalization, punctuation, and spelling.	b) Use the word I in compound subjects.	Starter Paragraph Punch, Paragraph Punch, Writing About Reading
Writing	3.11 The student will edit writing for correct grammar, capitalization, punctuation, and spelling.	c) Use past and present verb tense.	Starter Paragraph Punch, Paragraph Punch, Writing About Reading

Writing	3.11 The student will edit writing for correct grammar, capitalization, punctuation, and spelling.	d) Use singular possessives.	Starter Paragraph Punch, Paragraph Punch, Writing About Reading
Writing	3.11 The student will edit writing for correct grammar, capitalization, punctuation, and spelling.	e) Use commas in a simple series.	Starter Paragraph Punch, Paragraph Punch, Writing About Reading
Writing	3.11 The student will edit writing for correct grammar, capitalization, punctuation, and spelling.	f) Use simple abbreviations.	Starter Paragraph Punch, Paragraph Punch, Writing About Reading
Writing	3.11 The student will edit writing for correct grammar, capitalization, punctuation, and spelling.	g) Use apostrophes in contractions with pronouns.	Starter Paragraph Punch, Paragraph Punch, Writing About Reading
Writing	3.11 The student will edit writing for correct grammar, capitalization, punctuation, and spelling.	h) Use correct spelling for high-frequency sight words, including irregular plurals.	Starter Paragraph Punch, Paragraph Punch, Writing About Reading

Grade 4

Subhead	Standard	Benchmark	Merit Software
Writing	4.7 The student will write narratives, poems, and explanations.	a) Focus on one aspect of a topic.	Starter Paragraph Punch, Paragraph Punch, Writing About Reading
Writing	4.7 The student will write narratives, poems, and explanations.	b) Develop a plan for writing.	Starter Paragraph Punch, Paragraph Punch, Writing About Reading
Writing	4.7 The student will write narratives, poems, and explanations.	c) Organize writing to convey a central idea.	Starter Paragraph Punch, Paragraph Punch, Writing About Reading
Writing	4.7 The student will write narratives, poems, and explanations.	d) Write several related paragraphs on the same topic.	Starter Paragraph Punch, Paragraph Punch, Writing About Reading
Writing	4.7 The student will write narratives, poems, and explanations.	e) Utilize elements of style, including word choice and sentence variation.	Starter Paragraph Punch, Paragraph Punch, Writing About Reading

Writing	4.7 The student will write narratives, poems, and explanations.	f) Write rhymed, unrhymed, and patterned poetry.	Starter Paragraph Punch, Paragraph Punch, Writing About Reading
Writing	4.7 The student will write narratives, poems, and explanations.	g) Use available technology.	Starter Paragraph Punch, Paragraph Punch, Writing About Reading
Writing	4.8 The student will edit writing for correct grammar, capitalization, spelling, punctuation, and sentence structure.	a) Use subject-verb agreement.	Starter Paragraph Punch, Paragraph Punch, Writing About Reading
Writing	4.8 The student will edit writing for correct grammar, capitalization, spelling, punctuation, and sentence structure.	b) Include prepositional phrases.	Starter Paragraph Punch, Paragraph Punch, Writing About Reading
Writing	4.8 The student will edit writing for correct grammar, capitalization, spelling, punctuation, and sentence structure.	c) Eliminate double negatives.	Starter Paragraph Punch, Paragraph Punch, Writing About Reading
Writing	4.8 The student will edit writing for correct grammar, capitalization, spelling, punctuation, and sentence structure.	d) Use noun-pronoun agreement.	Starter Paragraph Punch, Paragraph Punch, Writing About Reading
Writing	4.8 The student will edit writing for correct grammar, capitalization, spelling, punctuation, and sentence structure.	e) Use commas in series, dates, and addresses.	Starter Paragraph Punch, Paragraph Punch, Writing About Reading
Writing	4.8 The student will edit writing for correct grammar, capitalization, spelling, punctuation, and sentence structure.	f) Incorporate adjectives and adverbs.	Starter Paragraph Punch, Paragraph Punch, Writing About Reading
Writing	4.8 The student will edit writing for correct grammar, capitalization, spelling, punctuation, and sentence structure.	g) Use the articles a, an, and the correctly.	Starter Paragraph Punch, Paragraph Punch, Writing About Reading
Writing	4.8 The student will edit writing for correct grammar, capitalization, spelling, punctuation, and sentence structure.	h) Use correct spelling for frequently used words, including common homophones.	Starter Paragraph Punch, Paragraph Punch, Writing About Reading

Grade 5

Subhead	Standard	Benchmark	Merit Software
Writing	5.8 The student will write for a variety of purposes: to describe, to inform, to entertain, and to explain.	a) Choose planning strategies for various writing purposes.	Starter Paragraph Punch, Paragraph Punch, Writing About Reading
Writing	5.8 The student will write for a variety of purposes: to describe, to inform, to entertain, and to explain.	b) Organize information.	Starter Paragraph Punch, Paragraph Punch, Writing About Reading
Writing	5.8 The student will write for a variety of purposes: to describe, to inform, to entertain, and to explain.	c) Demonstrate awareness of intended audience.	Starter Paragraph Punch, Paragraph Punch, Writing About Reading
Writing	5.8 The student will write for a variety of purposes: to describe, to inform, to entertain, and to explain.	d) Use precise and descriptive vocabulary to create tone and voice.	Starter Paragraph Punch, Paragraph Punch, Writing About Reading
Writing	5.8 The student will write for a variety of purposes: to describe, to inform, to entertain, and to explain.	e) Vary sentence structure.	Starter Paragraph Punch, Paragraph Punch, Writing About Reading
Writing	5.8 The student will write for a variety of purposes: to describe, to inform, to entertain, and to explain.	f) Revise writing for clarity.	Starter Paragraph Punch, Paragraph Punch, Writing About Reading
Writing	5.8 The student will write for a variety of purposes: to describe, to inform, to entertain, and to explain.	g) Use available technology to access information.	Starter Paragraph Punch, Paragraph Punch, Writing About Reading
Writing	5.9 The student will edit writing for correct grammar, capitalization, spelling, punctuation, and sentence structure.	a) Use plural possessives.	Starter Paragraph Punch, Paragraph Punch, Writing About Reading
Writing	5.9 The student will edit writing for correct grammar, capitalization, spelling, punctuation, and sentence structure.	b) Use adjective and adverb comparisons.	Starter Paragraph Punch, Paragraph Punch, Writing About Reading

Writing	5.9 The student will edit writing for correct grammar, capitalization, spelling, punctuation, and sentence structure.	c) Identify and use interjections.	Starter Paragraph Punch, Paragraph Punch, Writing About Reading
Writing	5.9 The student will edit writing for correct grammar, capitalization, spelling, punctuation, and sentence structure.	d) Use apostrophes in contractions and possessives.	Starter Paragraph Punch, Paragraph Punch, Writing About Reading
Writing	5.9 The student will edit writing for correct grammar, capitalization, spelling, punctuation, and sentence structure.	e) Use quotation marks with dialogue.	Starter Paragraph Punch, Paragraph Punch, Writing About Reading
Writing	5.9 The student will edit writing for correct grammar, capitalization, spelling, punctuation, and sentence structure.	f) Use commas to indicate interrupters and in the salutation and closing of a letter.	Starter Paragraph Punch, Paragraph Punch, Writing About Reading
Writing	5.9 The student will edit writing for correct grammar, capitalization, spelling, punctuation, and sentence structure.	g) Use a hyphen to divide words at the end of a line.	Starter Paragraph Punch, Paragraph Punch, Writing About Reading
Writing	5.9 The student will edit writing for correct grammar, capitalization, spelling, punctuation, and sentence structure.	h) Edit for clausal fragments, run-on sentences, and excessive coordination.	Starter Paragraph Punch, Paragraph Punch, Writing About Reading

Grade 6

Subhead	Standard	Benchmark	Merit Software
Writing	6.6 The student will write narratives, descriptions, and explanations.	a) Use a variety of planning strategies to generate and organize ideas.	Paragraph Punch, Writing about Reading

Writing	6.6 The student will write narratives, descriptions, and explanations.	b) Establish central idea, organization, elaboration, and unity.	Paragraph Punch, Writing about Reading
Writing	6.6 The student will write narratives, descriptions, and explanations.	c) Select vocabulary and information to enhance the central idea, tone, and voice.	Paragraph Punch, Writing about Reading
Writing	6.6 The student will write narratives, descriptions, and explanations.	d) Expand and embed ideas by using modifiers, standard coordination, and subordination in complete sentences.	Paragraph Punch, Writing about Reading
Writing	6.6 The student will write narratives, descriptions, and explanations.	e) Revise writing for clarity.	Paragraph Punch, Writing about Reading

Grade 7

Subhead	Standard	Benchmark	Merit Software
Writing	7.8 The student will develop narrative, expository, and persuasive writing.	a) Apply knowledge of prewriting strategies.	Paragraph Punch, Essay Punch, Writing about Reading
Writing	7.8 The student will develop narrative, expository, and persuasive writing.	b) Elaborate the central idea in an organized manner.	Paragraph Punch, Essay Punch, Writing about Reading
Writing	7.8 The student will develop narrative, expository, and persuasive writing.	c) Choose vocabulary and information that will create voice and tone.	Paragraph Punch, Essay Punch, Writing about Reading
Writing	7.8 The student will develop narrative, expository, and persuasive writing.	d) Use clauses and phrases to vary sentences.	Paragraph Punch, Essay Punch, Writing about Reading
Writing	7.8 The student will develop narrative, expository, and persuasive writing.	e) Revise writing for clarity and effect.	Paragraph Punch, Essay Punch, Writing about Reading
Writing	7.8 The student will develop narrative, expository, and persuasive writing.	f) Use a word processor to plan, draft, revise, edit, and publish selected writings.	Paragraph Punch, Essay Punch, Writing about Reading

Grade 8

Subhead	Standard	Benchmark	Merit Software
Writing	8.7 The student will write in a variety of forms, including narrative, expository, persuasive, and informational.	a) Use prewriting strategies to generate and organize ideas.	Paragraph Punch, Essay Punch, Writing about Reading

Writing	8.7 The student will write in a variety of forms, including narrative, expository, persuasive, and informational.	b) Organize details to elaborate the central idea.	Paragraph Punch, Essay Punch, Writing about Reading
Writing	8.7 The student will write in a variety of forms, including narrative, expository, persuasive, and informational.	c) Select specific vocabulary and information.	Paragraph Punch, Essay Punch, Writing about Reading
Writing	8.7 The student will write in a variety of forms, including narrative, expository, persuasive, and informational.	d) Revise writing for word choice, sentence variety, and transitions among paragraphs.	Paragraph Punch, Essay Punch, Writing about Reading
Writing	8.7 The student will write in a variety of forms, including narrative, expository, persuasive, and informational.	e) Use available technology.	Paragraph Punch, Essay Punch, Writing about Reading

Grade 9

Subhead	Standard	Benchmark	Merit Software
Writing	9.6 The student will develop narrative, expository, and informational writings to inform, explain, analyze, or entertain.	a) Generate, gather, and organize ideas for writing.	Paragraph Punch, Essay Punch, Writing about Reading, Writing for Business
Writing	9.6 The student will develop narrative, expository, and informational writings to inform, explain, analyze, or entertain.	b) Plan and organize writing to address a specific audience and purpose.	Paragraph Punch, Essay Punch, Writing about Reading, Writing for Business
Writing	9.6 The student will develop narrative, expository, and informational writings to inform, explain, analyze, or entertain.	c) Communicate clearly the purpose of the writing.	Paragraph Punch, Essay Punch, Writing about Reading, Writing for Business
Writing	9.6 The student will develop narrative, expository, and informational writings to inform, explain, analyze, or entertain.	f) Arrange paragraphs into a logical progression.	Essay Punch
Writing	9.6 The student will develop narrative, expository, and informational writings to inform, explain, analyze, or entertain.	g) Revise writing for clarity.	Paragraph Punch, Essay Punch, Writing about Reading, Writing for Business
Writing	9.6 The student will develop narrative, expository, and informational writings to inform, explain, analyze, or entertain.	h) Proofread and prepare final product for intended audience and purpose.	Paragraph Punch, Essay Punch, Writing about Reading, Writing for Business

Grade 10

Subhead	Standard	Benchmark	Merit Software
Writing	10.7 The student will develop a variety of writing, with an emphasis on exposition.	a) Generate, gather, plan, and organize ideas for writing.	Paragraph Punch, Essay Punch, Writing about Reading, Writing for Business
Writing	10.7 The student will develop a variety of writing, with an emphasis on exposition.	b) Elaborate ideas clearly through word choice and vivid description.	Paragraph Punch, Essay Punch, Writing about Reading, Writing for Business
Writing	10.7 The student will develop a variety of writing, with an emphasis on exposition.	c) Write clear, varied sentences.	Paragraph Punch, Essay Punch, Writing about Reading, Writing for Business
Writing	10.7 The student will develop a variety of writing, with an emphasis on exposition.	d) Organize ideas into a logical sequence.	Paragraph Punch, Essay Punch, Writing about Reading, Writing for Business
Writing	10.7 The student will develop a variety of writing, with an emphasis on exposition.	e) Revise writing for clarity of content and presentation.	Paragraph Punch, Essay Punch, Writing about Reading, Writing for Business
Writing	10.7 The student will develop a variety of writing, with an emphasis on exposition.	f) Proofread and prepare final product for intended audience and purpose.	Paragraph Punch, Essay Punch, Writing about Reading, Writing for Business
Writing	10.9 The student will critique professional and peer writing.	a) Analyze the writing of others.	Writing about Reading, Essay Punch
Writing	10.9 The student will critique professional and peer writing.	b) Describe how the author accomplishes the intended purpose of a writing.	Writing about Reading, Essay Punch
Writing	10.10 The student will use writing to interpret, analyze, and evaluate ideas.	a) Explain concepts contained in literature and other disciplines.	Paragraph Punch, Essay Punch, Writing about Reading, Writing for Business
Writing	10.10 The student will use writing to interpret, analyze, and evaluate ideas.	b) Translate concepts into simpler or more easily understood terms.	Paragraph Punch, Essay Punch, Writing about Reading, Writing for Business

Grade 11

Subhead	Standard	Benchmark	Merit Software
Writing	11.7 The student will write in a variety of forms, with an emphasis on persuasion	a) Generate, gather, plan, and organize ideas for writing.	Essay Punch, Writing for Business
Writing	11.7 The student will write in a variety of forms, with an emphasis on persuasion	b) Develop a focus for writing.	Essay Punch, Writing for Business
Writing	11.7 The student will write in a variety of forms, with an emphasis on persuasion	c) Evaluate and cite applicable information.	Essay Punch, Writing for Business

Writing	11.7 The student will write in a variety of forms, with an emphasis on persuasion	d) Organize ideas in a logical manner.	Essay Punch, Writing for Business
Writing	11.7 The student will write in a variety of forms, with an emphasis on persuasion	e) Elaborate ideas clearly and accurately.	Essay Punch, Writing for Business
Writing	11.7 The student will write in a variety of forms, with an emphasis on persuasion	f) Adapt content, vocabulary, voice, and tone to audience, purpose, and situation.	Essay Punch, Writing for Business
Writing	11.7 The student will write in a variety of forms, with an emphasis on persuasion	g) Revise writing for accuracy and depth of information.	Essay Punch, Writing for Business
Writing	11.7 The student will write in a variety of forms, with an emphasis on persuasion	h) Proofread final copy and prepare document for intended audience and purpose.	Essay Punch, Writing for Business
Writing	11.9 The student will write, revise, and edit personal, professional, and informational correspondence to a standard acceptable in the workplace and higher education.	b) Organize information to support purpose and form of writing.	Essay Punch, Writing for Business
Writing	11.9 The student will write, revise, and edit personal, professional, and informational correspondence to a standard acceptable in the workplace and higher education.	c) Present information in a logical manner.	Essay Punch, Writing for Business
Writing	11.9 The student will write, revise, and edit personal, professional, and informational correspondence to a standard acceptable in the workplace and higher education.	d) Revise writing for clarity.	Essay Punch, Writing for Business
Writing	11.9 The student will write, revise, and edit personal, professional, and informational correspondence to a standard acceptable in the workplace and higher education.	e) Use technology to access information, organize ideas, and develop writing.	Essay Punch, Writing for Business

Grade 12

Subhead	Standard	Benchmark	Merit Software
Writing	12.7 The student will develop expository and informational writings.	a) Generate, gather, and organize ideas for writing.	Essay Punch
Writing	12.7 The student will develop expository and informational writings.	b) Consider audience and purpose when planning for writing.	Essay Punch

Writing	12.7 The student will develop expository and informational writings.	c) Write analytically about literary, informational, and visual materials.	Essay Punch
Writing	12.7 The student will develop expository and informational writings.	d) Elaborate ideas clearly and accurately.	Essay Punch
Writing	12.7 The student will develop expository and informational writings.	e) Revise writing for depth of information and technique of presentation.	Essay Punch
Writing	12.7 The student will develop expository and informational writings.	g) Proofread final copy and prepare document for publication or submission.	Essay Punch