Conventions of Writing

Grades 3-5

Third Grade	Fourth Grade	Fifth Grade
Text Layout	Text Layout	Text Layout
 Continue to understand how to use layout, 	 Continue to understand how to use 	 Understand how to use layout, spacing,
spacing, and size of print to create titles,	layout, spacing, and size of print to	and size of print to create titles,
headings, and subheadings in the content	create titles, headings, and subheadings	headings, and subheadings in the
area	in the content area	content area
 Begin to use size of print, underlining, 	 Continue to use size of print, 	• Use size of print, underlining, italics,
italics, and bold to convey a specific	underlining, italics, and bold to convey	and bold to convey a specific meanings
meaning	a specific meaning	Use indentation or spacing to set off
Grammar	• Begin to use indentation or spacing to	paragraphs
Sentence Structure	set off paragraphs	Grammar
Begin to place phrases in sentences	Grammar	Sentence Structure
Begin to use some complex sentences	Sentence Structure	Use some complex sentences with
with embedded clauses (My friend, who	• Place phrases in sentences	embedded clauses (My friend, who is a
is a gymnast, can do ten flips.)	• Continue to use some complex	gymnast, can do ten flips.)
• Continue to write simple and compound	sentences with embedded clauses (My	• Use a range of sentence types
sentences • Pagin to verito dialogue in conventional	friend, who is a gymnast, can do ten	(declarative, interrogative, exclamatory,
Begin to write dialogue in conventional structure	flips.) • Write simple and compound contained	imperative)
structureUse a range of sentence types	Write simple and compound sentencesContinue to use a range of sentence	Write dialogue in conventional structures
(declarative, interrogative, exclamatory)	types (declarative, interrogative,	Use split dialogue correctly
Parts of Speech	exclamatory, imperative)	Parts of Speech
• Continue to use subject and verb	 Continue to write dialogue in 	• Identify eight basic parts of speech:
agreement	conventional structures	noun, verb, adjective, adverb, pronoun,
 Continue to use prepositional phrases, 	Parts of Speech	conjunction, preposition, interjection
adjectives, and adverbs correctly	 Use subject and verb agreement 	Identify verb phrases and verb tenses
Begin to recognize subject - predicate	Begin to use nouns and pronouns that	Use nouns, adjectives and adverbs
relationship	are in agreement (Mike/he)	correctly
• Identify five basic parts of speech (noun,	• Use prepositional phrases, adjectives,	• Use nouns and pronouns that are in
verb, adjective, adverb, and pronoun)	and adverbs correctly	agreement (Mike/he)

Conventions of Writing Grades 3-5, Continued

Conventions of writing Grades 5-3, Continued			
Third Grade	Fourth Grade	Fifth Grade	
 Identify five basic parts of speech (noun, verb, adjective, adverb, and pronoun) Tense Write sentences in past, present, and 	 Continue to recognize subject - predicate relationship Identify five basic parts of speech: 	 Use noun/pronoun and noun/verb agreement Use verbs that are often misused (lie, law rise price) correctly. 	
future tenses Paragraphing	noun, verb, adjective, adverb, pronoun Tense Begin to maintain consistency of tense	 lay; rise, raise) correctly Use verb and objects that are often misused (to her and me; she and I) 	
 Begin to use paragraph structure to organize sentences that focus on one idea Begin to create transitions between paragraphs to show the progression of 	 Begin to write sentences in past, present, future, present perfect, and past perfect tense Paragraphing 	 correctly Recognize subject - predicate relationship Use prepositions and prepositional 	
ideas Capitalization	 Continue to use paragraph structure to organize sentences that focus on one 	phrases correctly Tense	
 Continue to use capital letters in titles and subtitles Begin to use capital letters appropriately in dialogue 	 Continue to create transitions between paragraphs to show the progression of ideas 	 Maintain consistency of tense Write sentences in past, present, future, present perfect, and past perfect tense 	
in dialoguePunctuationBegin to use ellipses to show pause or	ideasBegin to use paragraphs to show speaker change in dialogue	 Paragraphing Use paragraph structure to organize sentences that focus on one idea 	
anticipation, usually before something surprisingUse periods, question marks, and	 Capitalization Use capital letters in titles and subtitles Continue to use capital letters 	 Create transitions between paragraphs to show the progression of ideas Use paragraphs to show speaker change 	
exclamation marks as ending marksUse quotation marks around speaker's words	 appropriately in dialogue Begin to use capitalization for specialized functions (emphasis, key 	in dialogue Capitalization • Use capital letters appropriately in	
 Continue to use apostrophes in contractions and possessives Continue to use commas to identify a series 	 information, voice) Begin to use more complex capitalization with increasing accuracy such as abbreviations, quotation marks, and split dialogue 	dialogue • Use capitalization for specialized functions (emphasis, key information, voice)	

Conventions of Writing Grades 3-5, Continued

Third Grade	Fourth Grade	Fifth Grade
 Begin to break words at the syllables at the end of a line using a hyphen Edit Edit for conventional spelling for important words Edit selected pieces for grade level conventions and grammar Edit for sentence sense Edit for correct spelling for high-frequency words and words with common spelling patterns 	 Continue to use ellipses to show pause or anticipation, usually before something surprising Begin to use dashes to indicate a longer pause or slow down the reading to emphasize particular information Begin to use commas and quotation marks in writing interrupted and uninterrupted dialogue Use apostrophes in contractions and possessives Use commas to identify a series Use hyphens to divide words at the end of a line at a syllable break Begin to use colons to indicate that something is explained or described Begin to use commas and parentheses to set off parenthetical information Edit Edit selected pieces for grade level conventions and grammar Use correct spelling for high-frequency words and words with common spelling patterns Edit for sentence sense 	 Use more complex capitalization with increasing accuracy such as abbreviations, quotation marks, and split dialogue Punctuation Use ellipses to show pause or anticipation, usually before something surprising Use dashes to indicate a longer pause or slow down the reading to emphasize particular information Use commas and quotation marks in writing interrupted and uninterrupted dialogue Use commas to identify a series, to introduce clauses, and in the direct address of a person Use colons to indicate that something is explained or described Use commas and parentheses to set off parenthetical information Edit Edit selected pieces for grade level conventions and grammar Use correct spelling for high-frequency words and words with common spelling patterns Edit for sentence sense