

Alabama Handwriting Standards

(As per Alabama Department of Education; www.alex.state.al.us/browseStand.php)

Updated 2009

Kindergarten

3.) Identify upper- and lower-case letters.

8.) Use brainstorming, drawing, and discussion as elements of prewriting in the writing process.

Examples: graphic organizers, storyboards, peer group discussions

- Drafting by stringing letters together to express thought
- Revising group or modeled story
- Using approximate spelling while editing
- Publishing through reading or displaying work
- Using basic punctuation

Examples: period, question mark, exclamation point

9.) Print upper- and lower-case letters using proper formation, spacing, and letter-line placement.

- Using correct hand position when holding writing instrument

Grade 1

8.) Use complete sentences to address a topic or tell a story.

- Using graphic organizers to outline content
- Rereading to make revisions
- Editing for spelling, punctuation, and capitalization
- Publishing final draft
- Using descriptive, narrative, and expository modes of writing
- Writing simple poems addressing a topic

9.) Use periods at the end of sentences and capitalization at the beginning of sentences and with the pronoun *I*.

- Using question marks at the end of asking sentences

11.) Exhibit proper letter formation, spacing, and letter-line placement in words and sentences.

Grade 2

8.) Organize sentences into a paragraph to address a topic or tell a story.

- Sorting information using graphic organizers
- Generating a topic sentence and a concluding sentence in a paragraph
- Drafting a written piece, including an introductory paragraph and a concluding paragraph
- Editing for spelling, punctuation, capitalization, and sentence variety
- Publishing final draft
- Using descriptive, narrative, and expository modes of writing
- Writing free verse poetry to express ideas

9.) Demonstrate correct use of question marks and capitalization of names, months, days of the week, and holidays in written expression.

- Using abbreviations, apostrophes in contractions, and apostrophes in possessives in writing
- Using commas in writing

Examples: dates, friendly letter greetings, physical address, items in a series

- Using exclamation points at the end of sentences to show emotion in writing

11.) Write words and sentences legibly with proper spacing in manuscript.

- Forming upper- and lower-case letters in cursive

Grade 3

9.) Compose narrative texts using an introductory paragraph, specific time frames, clear sequencing of events, and a conclusion.

- Determining purpose and audience prior to writing

Examples:

- purpose--writer addresses topic in correct mode

- audience--writer uses appropriate tone

- Demonstrating clarity and organization in a composition
- Composing descriptive texts using sensory details and vivid language
- Composing expository texts using appropriate sequencing of ideas or steps in a process
- Using complete sentences, varied sentence structure, and appropriate transition words in a composition
- Demonstrating the process of prewriting, drafting, revising, editing, and publishing
- Using graphic organizers during prewriting
- Using figurative language to enhance written text

Examples: simile, onomatopoeia, metaphor, alliteration

- Utilizing precise vocabulary in written presentations

Examples: *gorgeous* instead of *pretty*, *prosperous* instead of *rich*

- Demonstrating correct spelling in final written text
- Responding in writing to open-ended questions
- Utilizing bullets to organize major details and ideas to support a topic
- Demonstrating the ability to write legibly in cursive

10.) Apply mechanics in writing, including capitalization of proper nouns and titles of people and appropriate end marks, abbreviations, and commas with dates.

- Identifying friendly letter parts and related punctuation marks
- Using apostrophes with contractions and possessives
- Underlining or italicizing book titles
- Using commas to separate items in a series, in a physical address, and before the conjunction in a compound sentence

11.) Recognize nouns, verbs, pronouns, conjunctions, and adjectives in written texts.

- Demonstrating use of nouns, verbs, pronouns, conjunctions, adjectives, and verb tenses in writing
- Demonstrating use of subject-verb agreement in writing
- Demonstrating use of forms of adjectives in writing

Grade 4

8.) Compose descriptive texts using an introductory paragraph, sensory details, vivid language, and a conclusion.

- Determining purpose and audience prior to writing

Examples:

- purpose--writer addresses topic in correct mode
- audience--writer uses appropriate tone and language
- Demonstrating clarity and organization in a composition
- Composing expository texts using a main idea with three supporting details
- Composing narrative texts using a definite time frame, selected tone, and a clear sequence of events

Examples: selected tone--sarcastic, angry, humorous, respectful

- Writing complex sentences to vary sentence structure
- Correcting sentence fragments and run-on sentences in writing
- Demonstrating the process of prewriting, drafting, revising, editing, and publishing
- Demonstrating usage of graphic organizers during prewriting
- Spelling correctly in final written texts
- Bulleting major ideas during prewriting
- Utilizing figurative language to enhance written communication

Examples: simile, metaphor, onomatopoeia, personification

9.) Respond in writing to open-ended questions.

- Utilizing bullets to organize major details and ideas to support a topic

10.) Apply mechanics in writing, including capitalization of business and friendly letter parts and envelope addresses and use of punctuation, including apostrophe with contractions; underlining or italicizing of book titles; and commas to separate items in a series and in a physical address.

- Capitalizing proper adjectives and the first word in direct quotations
- Applying correct punctuation in a direct quotation, including quotation marks, commas, and end marks
- Using commas correctly in a compound sentence
- Using apostrophes with possessives
- Writing sentences without the use of double negatives

Grade 5

8.) Express meaning through writing varied sentence structure, detailed paragraphs, and multi-paragraph compositions in an organized manner.

- Editing writing for clarity of thought
- Correcting awkward sentence construction, redundancy, fragments, and run-ons in written presentations
- Utilizing precise vocabulary in oral and written presentations

Examples: *sauntered* instead of *walked*, *scurried* instead of *ran*

- Bulleting major details and ideas to support a topic or subject

- Responding in writing to open-ended questions

9.) Apply mechanics in writing, including capitalization of first word in a direct quotation and use of punctuation, including quotation marks and comma with direct quotations, colon to introduce a list, and commas after introductory words, with a noun of direct address, and in a compound sentence.

- Using quotation marks with titles of short stories and poems
- Capitalizing proper adjectives, titles of books, and works of art
- Using apostrophes with possessives

10.) Demonstrate knowledge of grammar and usage concepts, including subject-verb agreement with a compound subject; present, past, and future verb tenses; forms of adjectives; forms of nouns; and subject, object, and possessive pronouns.

- Writing sentences without the use of double negatives
- Identifying homonyms, homophones, and homographs

Examples:

- homonym--as in a bat and a ball, a bat in a cave
- homophone--as in a *bear* in a forest, a *bare* spot in the lawn
- homograph--as in a *bass* in a lake, a *bass* singing voice

- Using irregular verbs in writing
- Using adjectives, adverbs, conjunctions, nouns, and verbs in writing
- Demonstrating correct use of prepositions and interjections