

Anchor Papers: Student Writing Samples

This section provides sample written responses to the eight Georgia Format Writing Assessments along with comments explaining the performance levels.

Form A: Informational

Does Not Meet Standard

Picnics

Picnics is lots of fun. You eat sandwiches and potatoe salad.
And water melin. We plays baseball.

Ideas—little or no evidence of focus, purpose, or point of view; insufficient information to explain the topic

Organization—little or no evidence of an organizational pattern

Style—language is simple, repetitive, or imprecise; little or no sensory detail

Conventions—more incorrect and unclear sentences than clear, correct sentences; frequent and severe agreement mistakes; frequent and severe spelling errors

Meets Standard

Picnics

It is easy and fun to go on a picnic. First you need to pack a lunch. Sandwiches and salads are good. A dessert like water melon or cookies is a good idea to. Next you need to pack some games. I bring baseballs and frisbes. Then you go to a park and have fun!

Ideas—includes some relevant examples, facts, anecdotes, and/or details; sufficient information to explain the topic

Organization—contains an introduction, body, and conclusion; transitions are used

Style—a mixture of descriptive language and simple, ordinary language

Conventions—majority of clear and correct sentences; some variation of sentence structure; spelling errors do not distract the reader

Exceeds Standard

Picnics

Picnics are a great thing to do on a sunny afternoon. The first thing you have to do is pack a lunch. Sandwiches, salads, and other foods that are easy to eat are the best. It's important to remember a dessert. I like watermelon but you could bring anything. It's also important to bring games. I usually bring a baseball and a frisbee. What ever you decide, just remember to have fun and relax!

Ideas—sustained focus, purpose, and point of view; the topic is well developed

Organization—clear and appropriate organizational pattern with a strong introduction, body, and conclusion; varied transitional elements link parts of the paper

Style—sustained use of interesting, descriptive language

Conventions—consistently clear and correct sentences with some complex or compound sentences; correct capitalization and punctuation in a variety of contexts

Form A: Persuasive

Does Not Meet Standard

The beach

Mom and dad, we shud go to the beach. It wud be fun. And warm. And sunnie. We cud swim and stuff. Please! Love Beth

Ideas—little or no evidence of focus, persuasive purpose, or point of view; examples and details are limited and may be irrelevant

Organization—ideas are not arranged in a meaningful order

Style—language is simple, repetitive, or imprecise; little or no awareness of audience

Conventions—more incorrect and unclear sentences than clear, correct sentences; little or no variation in sentence structure; frequent and severe spelling errors that may distract the reader

Meets Standard

Niagara Falls

Mom and Dad,

We should go to Niagra Falls this summer. We are learning about it in school and I think it would be a great family trip. Niagra Falls is beutiful and a famous place. We could go on a boat ride under the falls or for a hike next to them. It would be an intresting and different family vacation. Please think about it.

Love,

Beth

Ideas—some evidence of a purpose and point of view; includes some relevant examples, facts, anecdotes, and/or details

Organization—contains an introduction, body, and conclusion; one part of the paper may not be as strong as the others; related ideas are generally grouped together

Style—some strong verbs and adjectives are used; some attention to the audience

Conventions—some variation in sentence structure; generally correct spelling; spelling errors do not distract the reader

Exceeds Standard

Chicago

Dear Mom and Dad,

For our next family vacation, I think we should go to Chicago. I am learning about different cities in school and Chicago is my favorite. It's a big city that also has a lot of history. We could go to the Sears Tower and see the great view. There are also lots of museums in Chicago. We could eat some famous Chicago pizza. It could be a fun and educational trip. I think it's an excellent idea, I hope you do too!

Love,

Beth

Ideas—establishes and develops a clear position; the issue is well developed

Organization—related ideas are consistently grouped together; varied transitional elements link parts of the paper

Style—sustained use of interesting language; attention to the audience in the introduction, body, and conclusion

Conventions—consistently clear and correct sentences with some complex or compound sentences; consistently correct personal and possessive pronouns; consistently correct spelling with few errors

Form A: Narrative

Does Not Meet Standard

Outer space

Outer space is crazee. Their are aliens everywear. And planets and stares. Its fun their but im glad im back.

Ideas—little or no evidence of focus, purpose, or point of view; insufficient information to tell a story

Organization—little or no evidence of sequencing; little or no evidence of transitions

Style—little or no descriptive language; language is simple, repetitive, or imprecise

Conventions—more incorrect and unclear sentences than correct, clear sentences; frequent mistakes using personal pronouns; frequent mistakes forming contractions; frequent and severe spelling errors

Meets Standard

Outer Space!

My trip to outer space was great! I had so much fun. Seeing Earth from space is really interesting. It looks like a little ball. Going to the moon was fun too. The moon is full of big holes called craters so it is hard to walk around on. I hope I can go back to outer space soon!

Ideas—generally consistent focus; includes some relevant examples, facts, anecdotes, and/or details

Organization—ideas are generally presented in a chronological sequence

Style—some descriptive adjectives and verbs are used; some sensory details

Conventions—majority of clear and correct sentences; generally correct capitalization, punctuation, and spelling; errors do not distract the reader

Exceeds Standard

My Trip to Outer Space

My trip to outer space was the best. It all started when the space shuttle took off. It was a little scary but I was prepared. When we got into space, the view was great. Earth looks so different from space. Eventually, we got to the moon and I went for a moonwalk. I had to be careful of the craters! Later, I was sad to leave the moon but happy to come back to Earth and my friends and family. Still, I hope I can go back to space soon!

Ideas—relevant examples, facts, anecdotes, and details are used throughout the paper; the plot, setting, and characters are well developed

Organization—chronological sequencing of ideas within and across parts of the paper; transitions are used consistently and effectively throughout the paper

Style—sustained use of interesting language

Conventions—consistently clear and correct sentences with some complex or compound sentences; few, if any, agreement mistakes

Form A: Response to Literature

Does Not Meet Standard

Books

Books can be like life. Love you forever is a book about life.
its about family and groeing up.

Ideas—does not formulate a position in response to the text; insufficient information to develop a point of view

Organization—little or no evidence of an organizational pattern

Style—language is simple, repetitive, or imprecise

Conventions—little or no variation in sentence structure; frequent errors in capitalization and punctuation; frequent and severe spelling errors

Meets Standard

The Little Engine That Could

The Little Engine That Could really reminds me about my life. It is about working hard and not giving up. These are important things to learn. I learned these things at school and playing sports. When I read about the little engine, I understand the important of never giving up.

Ideas—generally consistent focus; sufficient information to develop a point of view

Organization—related ideas are generally grouped together; transitions are used but may not be varied

Style—a mixture of interesting language and simple, ordinary language

Conventions—majority of clear and correct sentences; some variation in sentence structure; spelling errors do not distract the reader

Exceeds Standard

Where the Wild Things Are

Where the Wild Things Are really reminds me of my life. I have a big imagination and a lot of energy so I think I am a lot like Max. I also spend a lot of time playing make believe and pretending. Sometimes, my sister and I pretend our beds are forts and we have to protect them. We think of the scary wild things that might attack us. When we read Where the Wild Things Are together, it makes us laugh.

Ideas—sustained focus, purpose, and point of view; the writer’s point of view is well developed

Organization—related ideas are consistently grouped together; varied transitional elements link parts of the paper

Style—sustained use of interesting language

Conventions—a variety of sentence structures; correct capitalization and punctuation in a variety of contexts

Form B: Informational
Does Not Meet Standard

Craft

Onse I make a craft. It was a picter. I draw it. It was fun.

Ideas—little or no evidence of focus, purpose, or point of view; insufficient information to explain the topic

Organization—little or no evidence of an organizational pattern; ideas are not arranged in a meaningful order

Style—language is simple, repetitive, or imprecise; little or no sensory detail

Conventions—frequent and severe agreement mistakes; frequent and severe spelling errors that may distract the reader, including misspellings of common words

Meets Standard

Birthday Card

For my moms birthday I made her a card. I used blue paper. Blue is her favrit color. I put gliter on it and write HAPPY BIRTHDAY. She liked it lots. I'm glad I made it.

Ideas—generally consistent focus; some evidence of a purpose and point of view; includes some relevant examples, facts, anecdotes, and/or details

Organization—related ideas are generally grouped together

Style—a mixture of descriptive language and simple, ordinary language; some sensory details are used

Conventions—majority of clear and correct sentences; generally correct use of contractions; generally correct spelling; spelling errors do not distract the reader

Exceeds Standard

Necklaces

I like to make necklaces. I use beads of different colors. I start with a piece of string and put the beads on it. I put the beads on in a pattern. I have to be careful not to let the beads fall off so I put tape on one end of the string. It can take a long time but when I finish I have a pretty necklace!

Ideas—relevant examples, facts, anecdotes, and details are used throughout the paper; complete information; the topic is well developed

Organization—clear and appropriate organizational pattern with a strong introduction, body, and conclusion; related ideas are consistently grouped together

Style—sustained use of interesting, descriptive language

Conventions—a variety of sentence structures; few, if any, agreement mistakes; correct capitalization and punctuation in a variety of contexts

Form B: Persuasive

Does Not Meet Standard

Class pet

Mr. lee I dont want no pet. I dont like animals. Them smelley and dirtey. Please dont. from Chris

Ideas—examples and details are limited and may be irrelevant; insufficient information to address the issue

Organization—little or no evidence of an organizational pattern; ideas are not arranged in a meaningful order

Style—little or no use of strong verbs and adjectives; little or no awareness of audience

Conventions—more incorrect and unclear sentences than correct, clear sentences; frequent mistakes in noun forms; frequent errors in capitalization and punctuation; frequent and severe spelling errors

Meets Standard

The Class Pet

Mr. Lee,

We should get a snake. Their easy to take care of. You only have to feed them evry now and then. And they cant run away. We could use it for learning about sience too. I think the hole class would like a snake.

From,

Chris

Ideas—states a clear position; includes some relevant examples, facts, anecdotes, and/or details

Organization—one part of the paper may not be as strong as the others; related ideas are generally grouped together

Style—some strong verbs and adjectives are used; some attention to the audience

Conventions—majority of clear and correct sentences; generally correct capitalization and punctuation with occasional mistakes; generally correct spelling

Exceeds Standard

The Class Pet

To Mr. Lee,

We should get a bunny for the class pet. Bunnies are cute and friendly. I think the hole class would be happy with a bunny. We could take turns feeding it. We would also have to clean its cage and make sure it gets enough exersize. I think a bunny is a great pet!

From,

Chris

Ideas—sustained focus, purpose, and point of view; relevant examples, facts, anecdotes, and details are used throughout the paper

Organization—clear and appropriate persuasive organizational pattern with a strong introduction, body, and conclusion

Style—consistent use of strong verbs and adjectives to enhance the persuasive purpose; attention to the audience in the introduction, body, and conclusion

Conventions—a variety of sentence structures; consistently correct singular, plural, and possessive nouns; spelling errors occur in words that are above grade level

Form B: Narrative

Does Not Meet Standard

The farm

Yesterday I milkd the cows. Then I fed the chickens. Then I plant some corn. I is a farmer.

Ideas—examples and details are limited and may be irrelevant; insufficient information to tell a story

Organization—little or no evidence of an organizational pattern; little or no evidence of transitions

Style—little or no descriptive language; language is simple, repetitive, or imprecise

Conventions—frequent and severe agreement mistakes; frequent mistakes in noun forms; frequent and severe spelling errors

Meets Standard

The Farm

I am a farmer and live on a farm. Yesterday I woke up early and cleaned the pigs. Then I fed and milk the cows. Then I plant some trees to grow fruit vegetables. Then it was time for bed again. It is fun being a farmer.

Ideas—generally consistent focus; includes some relevant examples, facts, anecdotes, and/or details

Organization—contains a beginning, middle, and end; one part of the paper may not be as strong as the others; ideas are generally presented in a chronological sequence

Style—some descriptive adjectives and verbs; some attention to the audience

Conventions—majority of clear and correct sentences; majority of correct noun forms; generally correct spelling; spelling errors do not distract the reader

Exceeds Standard

I Am a Farmer

I am a farmer and my life is fun. Yesterday I woke up early and fed and cleaned all the animals. The pigs are real dirty. They are the hardest to clean. I also had to plant fruit and vegetables. It will be fun to watch them grow. Farming is hard work but it is great. I love my life.

Ideas—sustained focus, purpose, and point of view; develops main character(s) through action, dialogue, and/or description

Organization—clear narrative organizational pattern with a strong beginning, middle, and end

Style—consistent use of descriptive adjectives and verbs

Conventions—consistently clear and correct sentences with some complex or compound sentences; few, if any, agreement mistakes; consistently correct spelling with few errors