ISAT - Student Writing Checklist  
Expository, Grade 3-5

Focus

✓ I have an interesting beginning to my composition that clearly explains what I am going to write about.
✓ My composition is about the subject or topic.
✓ If I use previewing, I remember to write about each point.
✓ I write a closing that successfully ties my ideas together.

Support

✓ I use specific examples and details to explain each of my points.
✓ I use the same amount of support and detail for each of the points I make.
✓ I use the same voice* throughout my composition.
✓ I use a variety of specific and descriptive words to make my composition more interesting for the reader.
✓ I use words correctly and purposefully.

Organization

✓ My composition is organized so that it makes sense.
✓ I use paragraphing to help organize my thoughts.
✓ I use transition words to connect my sentences and paragraphs so that my composition flows smoothly when I read it.
✓ My sentences begin in different ways.
✓ My sentences are different lengths to make my composition more interesting.
✓ I avoid using the same words over and over again.

Conventions

✓ I use complete sentences.
✓ I spell familiar words correctly.
✓ I spell higher-level words the way they sound.
✓ I use capitalization and punctuation correctly.
✓ I make sure that the subject of my sentence agrees with the verb.
✓ I use the same verb tense throughout my composition.

*Voice – The individuality of the writer coming through on the page. Voice gives writing a distinctiveness. The reader of the composition has the feeling that the writer is talking directly to him or her.