ISAT - Student Writing Checklist
Narrative, Grade 6-8

Focus

✓ I use my introduction to set the purpose of my composition.
✓ I have an interesting start to my story that catches the reader’s attention.
✓ My composition is about the subject or topic.
✓ I write a closing that effectively unifies my writing.

Elaboration

✓ I use specific examples and details to describe the event or experience and my reactions and/or the reactions of others.
✓ I balance my use of description throughout my composition.
✓ I use the same voice* throughout my composition.
✓ I use a variety of specific and descriptive words and phrases to make my composition more interesting for the reader.
✓ I use words correctly and purposefully.

Organization

✓ My composition moves logically through time and has a beginning, a middle, and an ending.
✓ I use paragraphing to help organize my story.
✓ I use transition words and phrases 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 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.