

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.