

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.