

8th Grade Writing “I Can” Statements

Writing Applications-

1. I can write an effective narrative by:
 - Keeping my readers’ interest by creating *tension and suspense*
 - *Pacing the action*
 - Staying on topic
 - Using first or third person point of view throughout the entire piece
 - Using sensory details
 - *Using literary devices such as tone, mood, voice, and style*
 - Using dialogue when appropriate
 - *Developing complex characters and a definite, believable setting*
2. I can write effective responses to literature by:
 - *Clearly explaining or analyzing several ideas about what I’ve read*
 - Evaluating what I’ve read
 - Reflecting on what I’ve read
 - Supporting my ideas using details from what I’ve read
 - *Comparing to other things I’ve read*
3. Letters- not a power standard
4. I can write informational essays, reports, or research papers by:
 - *Understanding my topic and anticipating my readers’ questions*
 - *Providing a clear and accurate viewpoint*
 - *Using specific facts, details, and examples from multiple sources to support my viewpoint*
 - Deciding how it should be organized
 - Considering my purpose and my audience
 - *Listing sources, including bibliographies*
5. I can write a convincing persuasive argument by:
 - Taking a clear stand
 - Supporting my opinion with enough relevant information
 - *Leaving out what does not strengthen my argument*
 - *Citing sources of information*

Writing Process and Conventions

1. I can brainstorm several writing ideas by:
 - having discussions with others
 - reading printed materials
 - keeping a list of writing ideas
 - conducting interviews and/or surveys
2. I can establish a thesis statement for informational writing pieces by:
 - clearly stating my main idea
3. I can establish a plan for my writing by:
 - brainstorming and using organizers
4. I can determine a purpose and audience for my writing applications by:
 - *Changing the focus to fit the subject*
 - *Organizing information to fit the subject*
 - *Choosing the appropriate point of view*
5. I can organize my writing by:
 - Creating an effective and engaging introduction that grabs the readers' attention
 - Creating body paragraphs that support or extend my ideas
 - Creating a conclusion that summarizes, extends, or elaborates on my ideas
 - Using technology to compose text
6. I can improve my writing by:
 - Using various sentence structures
 - Grouping related ideas into paragraphs with consistent focus
 - *Using parallel structure correctly*
 - Using action verbs, sensory details, and colorful modifiers
 - Adding or deleting information to make my writing more clear
 - Making use of transition words and phrases
 - Utilizing resources to improve vocabulary
7. I can edit my writing by:
 - Spelling words correctly
 - Using punctuation marks correctly (commas, end marks, apostrophes, quotation marks, semicolons, colons, hyphens, and dashes)
 - Using correct capitalization
 - Using all eight parts of speech (noun, pronoun, verb, adverb, adjective, conjunction, preposition, interjection)
 - *Understanding the difference between dependent and independent clauses (main and subordinate)*
 - *Understanding phrases (gerund, infinitive, participial)*
 - *Using subject-verb agreement, and appropriate verb tense*
 - Using regular and irregular verbs correctly
 - *Using parallel structure to present items in a series*
 - *Using proper placement of modifiers*
8. I can judge my own writing by using a rubric or a checklist.

9. I can prepare my writing for publication by:

- Displaying my writing
- Sharing my writing with others
- Using technology
- Using design principles (margins, tabs, spacing, and columns)
- Using drawings, charts, and graphs