

Helping Your Fifth Grade Writer at Home!

As the writing test approaches, parents are wondering how they can help their child at home. Here are some tips, information, and ideas for at home practice. The children are also doing lots of writing at school, so please make at-home practice short, structured, and fun!

The process for writing is as follows:

1. Brainstorm a list (not web) of all ideas they can think of for the topic
2. Organize the ideas into a graphic organizer that your child has learned in his/her Language Arts class.
3. Write a rough draft
4. Revise (make better) and edit (fix mistakes)
5. Write the final copy

On the day of the test, the students will randomly receive one of the following types of prompts to write a paper for:

Personal Narrative or Imaginary Narrative

This paper will be most likely written in the first person (I, me, and we) and will be a story that follows a sequence of events with a **strong** beginning, middle and end. The character will want something or have a goal or a problem with about three actions taking place prior to solving the problem or achieving the goal. At the end there should be a wrap-up or lesson learned. The paper must be written in two pages or less, preferably about 1 ½ to 2.

Persuasive Essay

This paper should be at least a five-paragraph essay with an introduction, a minimum of three body paragraphs, and a conclusion. The writer tries to convince the reader of something he wants. The three or more body paragraphs must have a main idea and about three specific details to support that main idea. The paper must be written in two pages or less, preferably about 1 ½ to 2..

Informational or Expository Essay

This paper should be at least a five-paragraph essay with an introductory paragraph, a minimum of three body paragraphs, and a conclusion. The writer is giving information about a topic that he or she is knowledgeable about. The body paragraphs have a main idea and about three specific details to support that main idea. The paper must be written in two pages or less, preferably about 1 ½ to 2.