

Essential Writing Skills

In an effort to identify essential writing skills and competencies in our students, the teachers who took the August, 2008 Lucy Calkins' writing class discussed what writing skills, especially in conventions, they expected the majority of students entering their grade level and exiting their grade level to do with competency and automaticity.

The charts below are offered for guidance as teachers decide what skills to teach and stress to their students.

Kindergarten: Essential writing skills most students demonstrate with competency and automaticity.

Incoming Fall Writing Skills	End of the Year Writing Skills
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Students are exposed to capitals at the beginning of sentences, the beginning of names, and I. • Students can name capital and lower case letters. • Students know letter/sound correspondences. • Students understand concepts of print (read left to right, top to bottom, front and back of book, etc) • Students know what the ending punctuation marks mean (. ? !) • Students can read and write sight words (see curriculum) • Students understand that a picture and print conveys meaning. • Students can write their name.

First Grade: Essential writing skills most students demonstrate with competency and automaticity.

Incoming Fall Writing Skills	End of the Year Writing Skills
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Students are exposed to capitals at the beginning of sentences, the beginning of names, and I. • Students can name capital and lower case letters. • Students know letter/sound correspondences. • Students understand concepts of print (read left to right, top to bottom, front and back of book, etc) • Students know what the ending punctuation marks mean (. ? !) • Students can read and write sight words (see curriculum) • Students understand that a picture and print conveys meaning. • Students can write their name. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Students demonstrate finger spaces in writing. • Students write a simple sentence with correct beginning capitalization and ending punctuation. • Students understand the difference between a sentence and a fragment. • Students capitalize I and the names of people. • First grade target words are spelled correctly.

Second Grade: Essential writing skills most students demonstrate with competency and automaticity.

Incoming Fall Writing Skills	End of the Year Writing Skills
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Students demonstrate finger spaces in writing. • Students write a simple sentence with correct beginning capitalization and ending punctuation. • Students understand the difference between a sentence and a fragment. • Students capitalize I and the names of people. • First grade target words are spelled correctly. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Students can write complete sentences with correct beginning capitalization and ending punctuation. • Students capitalize proper nouns (months, days of the week, titles, and names of people). • Students use correct subject-verb agreement in speaking. • Students can change singular nouns to plural nouns. • Students can read and write basic sight words. • First and second grade target words are spelled correctly.

Third Grade: Essential writing skills most students demonstrate with competency and automaticity.

Incoming Fall Writing Skills	End of the Year Writing Skills
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Students can write complete sentences with correct beginning capitalization and ending punctuation. • Students capitalize proper nouns (months, days of the week, titles, and names of people). • Students use correct subject-verb agreement in speaking. • Students can change singular nouns to plural nouns. • Students can read and write basic sight words. • First and second grade target words are spelled correctly. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Students indent the first paragraph. • Students write complete sentences with correct beginning capitalization and ending punctuation. • Students use correct subject-verb agreement in writing. • Students use commas correctly in a series, dates, addresses, and between city and state. • Students capitalize proper nouns (holidays, historical periods). • First, second, and third grade target words are spelled correctly.

Fourth Grade: Essential writing skills most students demonstrate with competency and automaticity.

Incoming Fall Writing Skills	End of the Year Writing Skills
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Students indent the first paragraph.• Students write complete sentences with correct beginning capitalization and ending punctuation.• Students use correct subject/verb agreement in writing.• Students use commas correctly in a series, dates, addresses, and between city and state.• Students capitalize proper nouns (holidays, historical periods).• First, second, and third grade target words are spelled correctly.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Students correctly use commas after an introductory word.• Students indent paragraphs. Sentences within paragraphs are correctly capitalized and punctuated.• Students correctly use regular and irregular verbs in writing.• Students use apostrophes correctly in contractions and possessives.• Students capitalize proper nouns.• Students correctly write to, too, two; their, there; your, you're.• First, second, third, and fourth grade target words are spelled correctly.

Fifth Grade: Essential writing skills most students demonstrate with competency and automaticity.

Incoming Fall Writing Skills	End of the Year Writing Skills
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Students correctly use commas after an introductory word.• Students indent paragraphs. Sentences within paragraphs are correctly capitalized and punctuated.• Students correctly use regular and irregular verbs in writing.• Students use apostrophes correctly in contractions and possessives.• Students capitalize proper nouns.• Students correctly write to, too, two; their, there; your, you're.• First, second, third, and fourth grade target words are spelled correctly.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Students correctly use quotation marks when writing dialogue.• Students correctly use pronouns in writing.• Students correctly use past and present tense.• First, second, third, fourth, and fifth grade target words are spelled correctly.

Sixth Grade: Essential writing skills most students demonstrate with competency and automaticity.

Incoming Fall Writing Skills	End of the Year Writing Skills
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Students correctly use quotation marks when writing dialogue.• Students correctly use pronouns in writing.• Students correctly use past and present tense.• First, second, third, fourth, and fifth grade target words are spelled correctly.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Students correctly write compound sentences using a semi colon.• Students correctly use prepositions and prepositional phrases in their writing.• Students correctly use appositives in their writing.• First, second, third, fourth, fifth, and sixth grade target words are spelled correctly.