



State of Texas Assessments of Academic Readiness (STAAR™) Performance Level Descriptors Grade 4 Writing

Performance Level Descriptors

Students achieving Level III: Advanced Academic Performance can

- Write thoughtful and engaging personal narratives that skillfully convey the experience by including details and vivid, expressive language that strengthen the cohesiveness of the narrative, significantly contributing to the writer's portrayal of the experience
- Write thoughtful and engaging expository essays with sustained focus on a clear central idea, an organizing structure that is well suited to the expository task, and development that adds substance to the essay
- Choose sentences that are purposeful, varied, and well controlled

Students achieving Level II: Satisfactory Academic Performance can

- Write credible personal narratives that are focused on a specific personal experience, use organizational strategies or literary devices that contribute to narrative writing, include specific details and language that support a portrayal of the experience, and demonstrate an adequate command of age-appropriate written conventions
- Write expository essays that establish a clear central idea; use organizational strategies that are adequately suited to expository writing; sufficiently develop ideas with specific details, language, and examples that are appropriate to the explanatory purpose; and demonstrate an adequate command of age-appropriate written conventions
- Use correct sentence structures
- Revise drafts to strengthen the development of ideas by adding or deleting information, improve the sentence-to-sentence connections within paragraphs, and ensure that word choice is appropriate and sentences are controlled
- Edit drafts to correct errors in grammar, sentence structure, capitalization, punctuation, and spelling

Students achieving Level I: Unsatisfactory Academic Performance can

- Write basic or limited personal narratives that demonstrate a minimal understanding of the writing task and convey some sense of the experience
- Write basic or limited essays that are marginally suited to the expository purpose and minimally developed
- Demonstrate a partial command of written conventions and sentence structures
- Demonstrate limited skills in revision and editing