

Arizona Writing Standard Performance Level Descriptors Grade 4

Exceeds the Standard – Students who score in this level illustrate a superior academic performance as evidenced by achievement that is substantially beyond the goal for all students. Students who perform at this level demonstrate the ability to identify and apply good written communications by expressing ideas that are clear and focused, using descriptive words that convey meaning and evoke images, engaging the audience and showing a strong sense of purpose, and making few errors in basic conventions.

Meets the Standard – Students who score in this level demonstrate a solid academic performance on subject matter as reflected by the writing standard. Students who perform at this level are able to identify elements of good communication and apply basic rules of conventions. They can express a clear main idea with some relevant support, organize with a beginning, middle, and end separated by simple transitions, use words that are appropriate to the topic, and utilize punctuation correctly.

Approaches the Standard – Students who score in this level show partial understanding of the knowledge and application of the skills that are fundamental for proficient work. Students who perform at this level show the ability to use some of the basic elements of written communication by demonstrating partial awareness of writing purpose, creating a beginning, middle, and end, constructing simple sentences with words relevant to the topic, and utilizing basic capitalization and punctuation. Some gaps in knowledge and skills are evident and may require additional instruction and remediation in order to achieve a satisfactory level of understanding.

Falls Far Below the Standard – Students who score in this level may have significant gaps and limited knowledge and skills that are necessary to satisfactorily meet the state’s writing standard. Students will usually require a considerable amount of additional instruction and remediation in order to achieve a satisfactory level of understanding.

Students at the “Exceeds the Standard” level generally know the skills required at the “Meets” and “Approaches” levels and are able to:	Students at the “Meets the Standard” level generally know the skills required at the “Approaches” level and are able to:	Students at the “Approaches the Standard” level generally know and are able to:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Express ideas that are clear and focused, developing the main idea with supporting detail. • Create a beginning that captures the reader’s interest and an ending that provides resolution. • Engage the audience and show a strong sense of purpose. • Use descriptive words that convey meaning and evoke images. • Vary sentence structure to emphasize meaning. • Use natural dialogue when appropriate. • Spell high frequency words correctly. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Express a clear main idea with some relevant support. • Organize with a beginning, middle, and end separated by simple transitions. • Use a tone that shows involvement and generally matches the topic. • Use words that are appropriate to the topic. • Write simple and complex sentences, varying sentence beginnings. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Express a main idea with limited support. • Show awareness of beginning, middle, and end, attempting simple transitions. • Show some awareness of writing purpose. • Use words relevant to the topic. • Construct simple sentences. • Capitalize sentence beginnings and punctuate using commas and end marks.

These descriptors do not include all the skills and knowledge as contained in the Writing Standard.