

# WRITING AT HOME

WITH KINDERGARTENERS &amp; 1ST GRADERS



## STICK TO THE BASICS

Students in K and 1st grade are developing their sentence writing skills. They should ...

- pick and introduce a topic
- give facts
- wrap it up
- draw a picture to match their text



Teaching small children to write is not an easy task. While you work on this skill from home, here are a few things to remember.

## PROGRESS OVER PERFECTION

Your child is still learning! Encourage spaces between words, capitalization, and punctuation. **However**, place more value on content.



## PICK AN IDEA

Not sure what to write about? Topics are everywhere! Have fun with it. Rewrite the ending of a book, movie, or TV show. Write a letter to a friend or family member. If all else fails, ask Google or Alexa!

## WRITE WRITE WRITE

One of the most difficult things about writing is getting started. Set aside a few minutes every day where your child has the opportunity to pick an idea and start writing about it. They can build on one idea throughout the week or pick a new idea each day. Either way, daily practice is crucial for developing writers.



## READERS ARE WRITERS!

The MOST important thing your child can do to become a better writer is READ. The more you read the better you write. Ask your child questions about what they read that relate to the author's choices.

Ex: Why do you think the author...

- said \_\_\_\_\_?
- picked animal characters instead of human?
- put that event at the beginning instead of the end?



# WRITING AT HOME

WITH 2ND &amp; 3RD GRADERS

## THE BASICS

Students in 2nd and 3rd grade are developing their paragraph writing skills. They should ...

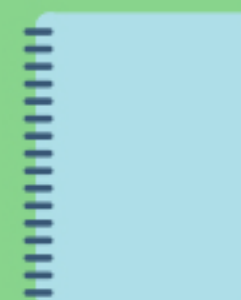
- have an introduction and a conclusion
- use facts and details to develop points
- begin using transition words and phrases

## PROGRESS OVER PERFECTION



Your child is still learning! Encourage proper grammar, capitalization, and punctuation. However, place more value on content. Does it make sense? Is it creative? Is it funny?

One of the most difficult things about writing is getting started. Set aside a few minutes every day where your child has the opportunity to pick an idea and start writing about it. They can build on one idea throughout the week or pick a new idea each day. Either way, daily practice is crucial for developing writers.



Not sure what to write about? Topics are everywhere! Have fun with it. Rewrite the ending of a book, movie, or TV show. Write a letter to a friend or family member. If all else fails, ask Google or Alexa!

The MOST important thing your child can do to become a better writer is READ. The more you read the better you write. Ask your child questions about what they read that relate to the author's choices. For example: Why do you think the author...

- said \_\_\_\_\_?
- chose to make that character succeed/fail?
- picked animal characters instead of human?
- put that event at the beginning instead of the end?



## FUN WRITING WEBSITES

- <https://www.makebeliefscomix.com/Comix/>
- <https://www.storybird.com/>

# TEXT BASED WRITING EXPLAINED

Grades 4-5

## HOW IS IT SCORED?

*Text based writing is worth 10 total points:*

- 4 points for purpose, focus and organization
- 4 points for evidence and elaboration
- 2 points for conventions

## WHAT IS TEXT BASED WRITING?

Your child should be able to read two or more texts, and then write a multi-paragraph essay in which they respond to a prompt related to the texts.

## INFORMATIVE

Writing that shares information supported by facts from the texts. Example prompt:

*The sources talked about Juliette Gordon Low. Write an informative essay in which you explain who Juliette Gordon Low was and why she formed the Girl Scouts organization. Use evidence from the sources to support your answer.*

## OPINION

Writing that shares an opinion backed up with facts from the texts. Example prompt:

*The passages you read were about bike sharing. Write an essay in which you give your opinion about whether or not a bike sharing program would work in your community. Use information from the sources in your essay.*

## OTHER EXPECTATIONS

- Plan your writing
- The essay must include an introduction and a conclusion paragraph
- Use transition words and phrases at the start of each paragraph and to connect ideas within paragraphs

## TEXT EVIDENCE

Your child should be able to paraphrase important information from the text. These citations should be noted with phrasing such as, "According to the text..." or "the author claims..."