

Excellent

Students at this achievement level generally have exhibited the ability to

1. develop written compositions that are organized and use well-chosen evidence and analysis to support a central idea;
2. use a variety of sentence structures and precise and effective language to establish voice in written compositions;
3. demonstrate control of sentence formation, usage, mechanics, and spelling;
4. recognize the proper use of colons and semicolons;
5. analyze the development and interaction of complex characters and ideas;
6. interpret the figurative and connotative meanings of words and phrases as used in a text ;
7. analyze how an author structures a text to develop ideas and create effects such as humor and suspense;
8. recognize an author’s purposeful use of rhetorical devices to reveal point of view; and
9. evaluate the relevance and objectivity of information resources and incorporate them effectively into research projects.

Good

Students at this achievement level generally have exhibited the ability to

1. develop written compositions with a central idea, relevant evidence, and basic organization;
2. write compositions with some variety in sentence structure and word choice;
3. demonstrate adequate control of standard English usage and mechanics;
4. recognize errors in parallel structure and correct errors in verb tense and agreement;
5. determine the main idea/theme and trace its development over the course of a text;
6. examine how an author’s word choices develop the tone and purpose of a text;
7. determine the literal meanings of words and phrases as they are used in a text;
8. make inferences about characters and their motivations based on passage details; and
9. determine the usefulness of information sources to a given research topic.

Fair

Students at this achievement level generally have exhibited the ability to

1. develop written compositions that show evidence of organization and include some relevant information;
2. write compositions that include basic vocabulary and some variation in sentence length;
3. demonstrate adequate control of standard capitalization, punctuation, and spelling;
4. recognize the correct use of a colon to introduce a series;
5. identify the way an author incorporates basic literary elements;
6. summarize information from grade-appropriate texts;
7. extend ideas in texts by making simple inferences; and
8. evaluate results of an online search and narrow/expand the search as necessary.

Needs Improvement

Students at this achievement level are generally working toward the ability to

1. develop written compositions with evidence of organization;
2. write sentences with some variation in structure and length;
3. demonstrate control of basic mechanics and spelling;
4. summarize information from grade-appropriate texts;
5. extend ideas in texts by making simple inferences; and
6. evaluate results of an online search.