

ARCHDIOCESE OF CINCINNATI
WRITING SAMPLE -- GRADE 3 - WINTER, 2008

GENERAL INSTRUCTIONS-PLEASE READ BEFOREHAND

READ AND PREPARE PRIOR TO WRITING DATE (March 2-6, 2009)

1. **Once students begin drafting** their work, teachers may only answer questions that **clarify** the directions. **They may not help students write, revise, or edit.** Teachers may not correct drafts.
2. Use regular **loose leaf** paper for the final copy. Write on one side only. Please - no spiral bound paper. **Students are encouraged to write at least one side of loose leaf.** Shorter papers frequently lack the development necessary for scoring. Maximum length: 3 sides/pages.
3. Have students use a **dark** pencil or pen for the final copy. Students may **print** or use **cursive**, but writing must be legible.
4. **Students' names or school name should not appear on the final copy.**
5. Your school will receive a packet of adhesive labels, precoded for each student's paper. Use these on the final copies.
 - * the first three numbers are the school code **- this may have changed**
 - labels:** * the next three numbers are the student code
 - * the last two numbers are the grade level

Place **one** label on the **top right-hand corner** of each student's first page. **Please, it is important that the label be in this position. Obscuring part of the title is not a concern. Copy the identification code onto the upper right-hand corner of any additional pages.** (Papers do get separated at times.) Keep a listing of student names and identification codes (form provided) so that you can identify papers when the results come in. **Do not** send that sheet to the scoring.

6. **Staple together all pages** of the student's final copy. Please staple the upper **left-hand** corner only.
7. Illustrations should not be included.
8. Because this is a testing situation, all work must be done individually. Students may not draft, revise, or edit in groups **or with teacher help.** All written work should be completed at school, not at home. **Collect student work each day.**
9. **GIVE ALL PAPERS TO THE PRINCIPAL.** Your school's scorer(s) should bring all papers to the local scoring site on the appointed day. **If your school is not sending a scorer to the session, it is vital that the papers be mailed or delivered to the site for scoring on the appointed day. Be sure to include the COVER SHEET with the samples.**
10. Student papers will be returned with the scores. **You must keep a record of student names and numbers in order to file papers and scores.** (see #5 above) **The form for this is at the end of this file.**
11. **Teachers need to know the prompt as soon as possible.** They may read stories to the class before the writing date in order to refer to them in prewriting work. Students, however, are **not** to be given the prompt before February 25, nor should any of the prewriting **activities** be done before that date.

ARCHDIOCESE OF CINCINNATI
COMPETENCY BASED EDUCATION
WRITING SAMPLE -- GRADE 3

READ AND PREPARE PRIOR TO WRITING DATES
(March 2-6, 2009)

TEACHER DIRECTIONS

The writing sample prompt for 2008:

Everyone is afraid of something. Tell us about something you are or were afraid of.

Teachers familiar with your grade level will be reading your papers.

NOTE TO TEACHERS:

"Something a student is afraid of" could be a one-time scary situation, something a child was afraid of in the past, or something that continues to be frightening. "Something they are afraid of" could be a thing, a person, or a situation.

N.B. The prompt asks students to write their own original composition. You may put the prompt on the board or reproduce it for your students. Teachers **MAY NOT** write sample beginning sentences, even student generated ones, on the board for students to use. They may not list what students could/should write to develop the topic, or list sample closing sentences, or indicate to students what comes next in their composition. **The whole idea of a writing sample is to see if the student can organize the piece on his/her own, and develop** it with appropriate beginning, middle, and ending sentences. Teacher input is limited to prewriting activities and discussion only, but we do encourage teachers to do as many prewriting activities as they can to help students clarify the topic and get ideas for the development of their own writing.

The writing sample incorporates the writing process. Therefore, students will need to prewrite, draft, revise, edit, and prepare a final draft. Teachers are encouraged to talk about the scoring rubric with the students **before** introducing the actual prompt.

TIME IS NOT A FACTOR. Students should probably work for 30-45 minutes during each of the days allotted. Use the time as you need it. Be sure to allow students sufficient time to COMPLETE re-copying.

DAY ONE - PREWRITE

Following are several prewriting techniques that may be helpful. Choose the ones that you feel will be the most helpful to your students. Do not feel you must do all of these activities, but it is preferable to do more than one.

1. Discuss different things that might be frightening for the students. These might include animals (big dogs, snakes, spider), people (doctors, a bully, a homeless person), or situations (being alone in a house, being lost).
2. Books may be read ahead of time as long as the prompt is not revealed to the students. These selections are generally available from public libraries, but you may need to request them in advance. Some suggestions for reading include:

There's Something in My Attic, Mercer Mayer

There's an Alligator under My Bed, Mercer Mayer
Flashlight, Betsy James
Ben's Over Night, Sarah Ellis
Brave Horace, Holly Keller
Frightened Fred, Peta Coplans
Don't Be Afraid, Tommy, Klaus Baumgart
When Addie Was Scared, Linda Bailey
Rose and Sebastian, Cynthia Zarin
Sea Crow, Shannon Stewart

You might discuss with students details that the author included that helped the reader better understand or "feel" the character's experience.

3. Have students brainstorm ideas, and web or cluster details around a frightening experience. How did they feel about the experience? Who or what was involved? How did they cope with it? Did the experience change them in any way?
4. You, their teacher, might tell about a something you were afraid of.

DAY TWO - DRAFT

1. Review the prompt. Put it on the board or overhead.
2. From the prewriting experience(s), students should begin to write.
3. Day two is for drafting the piece of writing. Tell students this is **not** the paper they will turn in. The important thing is to get thoughts and ideas on paper.

COLLECT ALL PAPERS AT THE END OF EACH WRITING SESSION

DAYS THREE, FOUR, AND FIVE

REVISE

1. Return the students' drafts.
2. Ask students: (Use overhead or board)
 - a. Is your piece on topic?
 - b. What details can you add to help the reader understand and enjoy your paper?
 - c. Do you need to rearrange any ideas or details?
 - d. Do you need to take out any information or details that may confuse the reader?
3. Allow **time** to revise.
4. Share with students the criteria on which the papers will be scored. (You may wish to paraphrase or

interpret the rubric for the students.)

EDIT

1. Give students a copy of the included editing checklist or put it on a transparency. You may go over it orally if that would be helpful.
2. Ask students to look over their papers for those items and to **make any necessary corrections**.
3. Reference materials such as dictionaries, thesauruses, and grammar books may be used.

EDITING CHECKLIST

- _____ 1. Did I write a story about the topic?
- _____ 2. Do all of my sentences tell about the topic?
- _____ 3. Did I use descriptive words?
- _____ 4. Are all of my sentences in the right order?
- _____ 5. Do all of my sentences sound right and make sense?
- _____ 6. Did I indent all paragraphs?
- _____ 7. Did I use capital letters correctly?
- _____ 8. Did I punctuate correctly?
- _____ 9. Did I spell correctly?
- _____ 10. Did I use my best writing?

PUBLISH

1. Have students prepare a final copy to turn in for scoring. Remind them to use their best handwriting or printing. Be sure to allow students sufficient time to **complete** re-copying.
2. Remind them **not** to put **their name or school name** on the paper.

Students will need differing amounts of time to revise and edit. This is why three days are allotted to those tasks. Use your own best judgment about pacing the work, but **allow all students time to finish the final copy**.

**PLEASE MAKE SURE THE FINAL PAPERS ARE CODED AND
THAT THE IDENTIFICATION CODE IS COPIED ONTO THE UPPER RIGHT-HAND CORNER
OF ANY ADDITIONAL PAGES. STAPLE ALL PAGES TOGETHER.**

Print the following page and send it with the writing samples. All samples from one school should be submitted together.

Student Identification List form follows the cover page. Keep the Student ID List for your own use.

ARCHDIOCESE OF CINCINNATI

WRITING SAMPLE - **GRADE 3**

**RETURN THIS COVER SHEET WITH
THIRD GRADE PAPERS**

School _____

Address _____

Phone # _____

School Writing Sample Code # _____

List **first** code number used: _____

List **last** code number used: _____

Please list any numbers **in between** that are NOT included with these samples:

(person completing form or contact person)

