



First Grade Writing Rubric

Category	4 - Excellent	3 - Good	2 - Developing	1 - Emerging
Pencil Grip & Control	Holds pencil correctly and writes neatly with control.	Holds pencil correctly; handwriting is legible.	Inconsistent pencil grip; handwriting is uneven.	Needs help to hold and control the pencil.
Letter Formation	Forms all uppercase and lowercase letters correctly and neatly.	Forms most letters correctly with few errors.	Forms some letters but struggles with size/shape.	Attempts to form letters but many are unclear.
Spacing Between Words	Consistently spaces words correctly.	Spaces words with minor inconsistencies.	Limited spacing; words often run together.	No spacing; letters and words are hard to read.
Sentence Writing	Writes complete sentences with correct capitalization, punctuation, and grammar.	Writes complete sentences with minor errors.	Writes incomplete sentences with frequent errors.	Writes random words or letters; no structure.
Paragraph Writing	Writes a clear paragraph (3–4 sentences) on a single topic with a main idea and supporting details.	Writes 2–3 sentences on a topic with some organization.	Writes sentences with limited focus on the topic.	Attempts writing but lacks organization or focus.
Fiction Story Writing	Writes a clear fiction story with a beginning, middle, and end, including characters, a problem, and a solution.	Writes a fiction story with a beginning, middle, and end; includes some characters and a problem.	Writes a story with basic ideas but missing parts (e.g., no clear problem or solution).	Attempts to write a story but lacks structure or focus.
Capitalization Rules	Consistently capitalizes the first word of sentences and proper nouns.	Capitalizes the first word in most sentences; minor errors.	Attempts capitalization but inconsistent.	Rarely uses capital letters or does not attempt.



Punctuation Rules	Correctly uses periods, question marks, and exclamation marks in sentences.	Uses punctuation correctly most of the time.	Inconsistent use of punctuation; frequent errors.	Rarely uses punctuation or uses it incorrectly.
Spelling	Spells sight words correctly and uses phonetic spelling for new words.	Spells most sight words correctly; few errors.	Spells some words correctly; relies on phonetic spelling.	Spelling is unclear; random letters or guesses.
Basic Grammar	Uses correct grammar, including complete sentences and subject-verb agreement.	Makes minor grammar mistakes; sentences still clear.	Frequent grammar errors; sentences are choppy or incomplete.	Grammar is unclear; sentences lack structure.
Drawing & Writing Connection	Draws detailed pictures that clearly relate to the writing.	Draws pictures that mostly connect to writing.	Draws pictures with limited connection to writing.	Draws random or unrelated marks; no connection.
Effort and Focus	Works independently, stays focused, and completes writing tasks.	Works with occasional reminders to stay on task.	Needs frequent guidance and reminders to complete work.	Requires constant support and encouragement.
R.A.C.E. Expectations	Fully applies R.A.C.E: Restates the question, answers clearly, cites evidence, and explains thoroughly.	Applies R.A.C.E: Restates the question, provides an answer, and attempts to cite and explain.	Uses R.A.C.E with limited explanation or citation; the response lacks clarity.	Does not follow the R.A.C.E. process; lacks restatement, citation, or explanation.
Typing Skills	Types quickly and accurately, with correct use of fingers on home row; minimal errors.	Types at a good speed with occasional mistakes; uses proper finger placement most of the time.	Types slowly with some errors; inconsistent use of fingers on the home row.	Struggles to use the keyboard efficiently; frequent errors, and improper finger placement.

Notes:

- This rubric supports first-grade writing goals, including both narrative and fiction writing.
- Celebrate creativity and progress while encouraging effort and engagement.