

8th Grade FIRST 9-Week Targets for Virginia SOL Multiple Choice and TEI Writing Test

Students in 6th and 7th grade have been building the skills needed to perform well on the multiple choice/TEI portion of the 8th grade Writing SOL test. The following table identifies grade-level multiple choice/TEI targets for FIRST 9-weeks of eighth grade.

These targets have been paced. There is a snapshot for skills taught during the first half of the 9-weeks (Weeks 1 - 4.5). Skills should be taught before students take the snapshot. Teachers will use the results of the snapshot to plan additional instruction for students in the target skills that have not been mastered.

Teachers should use resources in the online Writing Coach to assess the second set of skills.

GRADE 8	FIRST 9-WEEKS	Target Skill Pacing	
		Weeks 1 - 4.5	Weeks 4.5 - 9
SENTENCE FORMATION			
edit, and rewrite sentence fragments (phrase and clause).		✓	
identify, edit, and rewrite a complete sentence using correct punctuation (using a period, not a comma)		✓	
edit, and rewrite run-on sentences			✓
USAGE			
subject-verb agreement (not "we was," "he don't," "they was") and including intervening clauses or phrases		✓	
consistent use of verb tense across paragraphs.		✓	
adverb comparisons (comparative and superlative)		✓	
pronoun-noun agreement with intervening information. (<u>Shells</u> burn easily, a characteristic that makes <u>them</u> a popular source of fuel.) Difference in usage when compound with <i>and</i> and <i>or</i> .			✓
apostrophes in contractions and both singular and plural possessives (know the difference when a noun is plural, is possessive or is plural possessive)			✓
adjective instead of adverb, when appropriate ("He feels bad.")			✓
subordinating conjunctions e.g., <i>because, when, if, where, while, before, and after</i> .			
MECHANICS			
commas around interrupter (includes nouns of direct address, appositives, expletives, etc.)		✓	
commas in a series, date, and letter		✓	
commas to separate main and subordinate clauses; appropriate subordinating conjunction to show relationship			✓
spelling			✓
PLAN			
determine strategy to generate and organize ideas.		✓	
identify information that is in the wrong place on an organizer, outline, chart or list.		✓	
choose the best graphic to support information on a given topic.		✓	
determine placement of supporting information in outline, organizer, chart, or list.			✓

See Compose, and Revise on the next page.

GRADE 8 COMPOSE AND REVISE	FIRST 9-WEEKS continued	Target Skill Pacing	
		Weeks 1 - 4.5	Weeks 4.5 - 9
Rewrite incomplete sentence.		✓	
Add a sentence to add details.		✓	
Identify best supporting sentence.			✓
Identify sentence that is off topic.			✓
Identify sentence that needlessly repeats information; Revise writing to eliminate unnecessary repetition.			✓
Revise transition to clarify the pattern of organization--determine best transition. (Know the meaning of words like <i>consequently, therefore, however, also, as a result, in addition, likewise, meanwhile, on the other hand, on the contrary, but, or, and</i> etc.)			✓
Identify appropriate tone.			✓
Revise writing to maintain the appropriate tone for a specific audience.			✓

8th Grade SECOND 9-Week Targets for Virginia SOL Multiple Choice and TEI Writing Test

In 6th and 7th grades students have been building the skills needed to perform well on the multiple choice/TEI portion of the 8th grade Writing SOL test. The following table identifies grade-level multiple choice/TEI targets for the SECOND 9-weeks grading period.

These targets have been paced. There is a snapshot for skills taught during the first half of the 9-weeks (Weeks 1.4.5). Skills should be taught before students take the snapshot. Teachers will use the results of the snapshot to plan additional instruction for students in the target skills that have not been mastered.

Teachers should use resources in the online Writing Coach to assess the second set of skills.

GRADE 8	SECOND 9-WEEKS	Target Skill Pacing	
SENTENCE FORMATION		Weeks 1 - 4.5	Weeks 4.5 - 9
edit, and rewrite sentence fragments (phrase and clause).		✓	
identify, edit, and rewrite a complete sentence using correct punctuation (using a period, not a comma).		✓	
edit, and rewrite run-on sentences.			✓
USAGE			
choose correct case and number for pronouns in compound subject and prepositional phrase with compound object		✓	
adjective comparisons (comparative and superlative) <i>more/most; less/least, -er/-est</i>		✓	
adverbs instead of adjectives, when appropriate (e.g., "He played <i>really</i> well.")		✓	
pronoun-noun agreement to include indefinite pronouns (<i>each, either, anyone, everyone, everybody</i> are always singular; <i>both, few, many, several</i> are always plural; <i>all, some, any, most, none, some</i> may be singular or plural).			✓
avoid double comparisons/superlatives, e.g., <i>more smaller, most beautifulest</i>).			✓
conjunctions (and, but, or) with correct use of pronoun (e.g., John or Bill should bring his laptop. Pam or I was suppose to order the books. Ruth and I are decorating the sign. Brenda and I were told to complete the job.)			✓
subordinating conjunctions e.g., <i>because, when, if, where, while, before, and after</i> .			✓
MECHANICS			
comma between clauses with coordinating conjunction (<i>and, or, but</i>)		✓	
capitalization: first word; proper nouns; proper adjectives; I; school subjects, as needed titles of works; "Mom" and "Dad", as appropriate		✓	
punctuation in and around dialogue; quotation marks around dialogue			✓
spelling frequently used and common words, including homophones			✓
PLAN			
apply knowledge of prewriting strategies; Determine strategy to narrow a topic. (e.g. asking questions)		✓	
synthesize information from multiple sources			✓
analyze a list of websites to identify which one provides the specific information requested.			✓
select key words to gather information specific to a topic, e.g., to conduct an internet search.			✓
demonstrate use of the Internet to gather information specific to a topic.			✓
evaluate the validity of a website (e.g., university website a more reliable source; individual person's website probably not valid.)			✓

See Compose, and Revise on the next page.

GRADE 8	SECOND 9-WEEKS continued		Target Skill Pacing	
COMPOSE AND REVISE			Weeks 1 - 4.5	Weeks 4.5 - 9
combine two sentences.	✓		✓	
revise writing to vary sentence structure by combining sentences.	✓		✓	
rewrite for descriptive details. (Details should show not tell.); most descriptive language; elaborate the main idea using deliberately chosen supporting/descriptive details.	✓		✓	
revise writing to correctly include transitional words and phrases. (understand text structures and the transition words used in them.)	✓			✓
rewrite for specificity.				✓
revise sentence for clarity within the context of the paragraph.				✓
revise sentence structure to create clear content within the context of the paragraph.				✓
identify most specific (precise) vocabulary. (based on appropriate connotation within the context of the paragraph).				✓
paraphrase information without plagiarizing. (Know the difference between saying something in their own words and using words and/or phrases taken from the original work.)				✓