

# Unit: Writing: Multiple Paragraph Essays

Grade or Subject: 8th Grade

Essential Questions	Content	Skills	Benchmark or Cornerstone Assessments	Standards
<p>What strategies can I use to help me be a more effective writer?</p> <p>Why do writers pick a particular structure for writing?</p>	<p><b>Concept: Writers use a variety of strategies to enhance their message and engage the reader.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Thesis statement</li> <li>• Introductory paragraph</li> <li>• Main idea</li> <li>• 3-5 paragraph essay</li> <li>• Relevant details and supporting evidence</li> <li>• Logical organization of ideas (e.g., order by chronology, importance...)</li> <li>• Unity</li> <li>• Transitions</li> <li>• Supportive and illustrative materials</li> <li>• Sentence variety</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Integrates a focused thesis statement into an introductory paragraph as part of a 3-5 paragraph essay</li> <li>• Writes a 3-5 paragraph essay with a clear thesis statement, main idea, a focused introductory paragraph, relevant details, and supporting evidence</li> <li>• Uses a graphic organizer to brainstorm supporting details</li> <li>• Maintains composition unity using an organizing rubric</li> <li>• Uses a variety of transitional words and phrases to link ideas within and between paragraphs</li> <li>• Incorporates relevant supporting information from a variety of sources</li> <li>• Uses a variety of sentence structures to enhance meaning (e.g., short, simple, compound, complex, compound-complex)</li> <li>• Uses a variety of sentences to create a certain effect in your writing</li> <li>• Uses the criteria and levels of performance on the writing rubric to assess your writing</li> </ul>	<p>5 paragraph issue-based essay</p> <p>Multiple paragraph essay using two different structures- sequence of ideas and comparison/contrast</p> <p>Self-assessment using essay rubric</p> <p>Essay revision task focusing on improving transitions and sentence structure</p>	<p><b>Write using specific strategies for specific formats.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Incorporating the thesis statement which identifies the focus or controlling idea for the entire composition, into an introductory paragraph.</li> <li>• Writing paragraphs that include relevant details and evidence that support the main idea of the paragraph and thesis statement.</li> <li>• Organizing ideas using appropriate structures (e.g., order by chronology, importance...) to maintain the unity of the composition with a variety of transitional words</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Style</li></ul> <p><b>Vocabulary:</b> organizational structures, compound-complex, personal style, controlled organization, unity</p>			<p>and phrases.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Varying beginnings, lengths, and patterns of sentences to improve flow and to enhance meaning and style of writing.</li></ul>
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