

ATTENTION!



Writing SOL

Attention Parents –

The 5th grade writing SOL is around the corner (as well as the rest of the SOLs in May). Looking for ways to help your student prepare?

Check out the Virginia Department of Education website at http://www.doe.virginia.gov/testing/sol/practice_items/index.shtml

Here you will find a link to the English Writing Practice Tool (and other additional practice items for math, reading and science)

Writing Practice Tools: Respond to a practice prompt within the online writing interface. Clicking on a link for a Writing Practice Tool will launch the tool in a browser window.

Grade 5	Practice Tool	Guide
Grade 8	Practice Tool	
End of Course	Practice Tool	

[Sample Excerpts in Reading and Writing Stand-Alone Items](#) (PDF): Shows how an excerpt or excerpts in a stand-alone item may be presented in online and paper/pencil tests. The length of the excerpt(s) in each box will vary, and some excerpts may be several paragraphs. Students are to read the boxed excerpt(s) and answer the item.

View a [presentation](#) (PPT) that explains the administration of the audio version of the short paper component of the online English SOL Writing test. After opening the file, click on the "Slide Show" tab and then click on the icon to start the slide show from the beginning.

For the 5th grade writing SOL, students are given random prompts (writing topics) and are asked to write/type a response. Students have access to scrap paper and dictionaries if they choose; however the writing SOLs are online and therefore the students have to **type** their responses.

One way to practice would be to have your student go to the practice tool site, give them a writing prompt (several example prompts have been provided on our school webpage- under the announcements) and have them write/type their response. The more experience your student has with the online writing tool, the more comfortable he/she will be during the live writing SOL. Please help remind your student that the response they write can be real or make believe. The important factor in the response is for the student to write about the prompt (stay on topic) and to write in complete sentences using proper grammar. Your student's teacher will be going over this at school as well.

Our school site also has additional typing tutorial websites to help with typing skills at <http://www.lcps.org/Page/75118>.

Writing Prompt Examples

- There are many different kinds of entertainment, such as music, games, books, or movies.
- Explain your favorite type of entertainment and why you like it.
- What is something you want to learn to do? Explain what you would like to learn and why.
- Imagine your school closes for the day, and you can do anything you want. What will you do? Write a story about what happens.
- Suppose you had the opportunity to travel anywhere you wanted. Write to explain where you would go and why.
- Think about something you would like to change about your school. Write to explain what you would change and why.
- Think about a special event you experienced. Write to explain the event and why it was important to you.
- People often help one another. Write to explain how you or someone you know helps others.
- Think of someone or something that is special to you. Write to explain what is special to you and why.
- Imagine a local newspaper reporter wants to know about your favorite school event. Write to describe the event and explain why it is your favorite.
- Who is your favorite teacher? Write to describe which teacher you like best and explain what makes him or her special.
- Imagine one of your teachers asks you to bring something special to show the class. Write to describe the item and explain why you would like to show it.
- Think about a pet you would like to own. Write to explain what you would choose and why.
- Think of someone who is brave. Write to describe this person and explain how he or she shows bravery.
- Imagine you are going on a field trip in a bus created especially for kids. Describe this bus and explain why kids will like it.
- Think about a favorite toy you have now or had when you were younger. Describe the toy and tell why it is your favorite.
- Imagine you received a package in the mail from a special person. Using details, write about what happened when you opened the package. Think of an object that is important to you. Write to describe this object and explain why it is important.
- Imagine one day at school you are allowed to create a rule for students to follow. Explain the rule you create and why you choose to make that rule. Be sure to include details.
- If you could make one wish that would help others, what would you wish for and why? Write to explain what wish you would make and how it would help others. Be sure to include details.
- Think of your favorite place to eat. The location could be at home, school, a park, a restaurant, or another place. Write to explain why this is your favorite place to eat.
- Your teacher gives you a camera and asks you to take pictures of three things you like at school. Explain what you take pictures of and why you like these things.
- There is a saying that time goes by quickly when you are having fun. Write about an exciting event in which the time seemed to go by faster than usual.
- Write about a time you worked hard for something. For example, you may have worked hard to win a game, make money for something, or earn a reward in class. Tell what you did and how you felt.
- Imagine you find an old letter tucked inside a library book. The letter reveals that there is a hidden passageway somewhere at your school. Write about your search for the passageway and where it leads.
- Imagine something wonderful happened to you. Write to describe your experience.
- Think about a trip you went on with your class, family, friends, or a group. Write about what happened on the trip.
- Imagine someone made an exciting announcement at school. Write about the announcement and what happened next.
- Suppose a door suddenly appears as you are walking down the hall. Write about what happens when you open the door.
- Imagine one day you wake up and discover you are invisible. Write to describe where you go and what you do.

Writing Prompt Examples

- Think about a time you were kind. Write to describe the situation and what happened as a result of your kindness.
- Think about a time something exciting or funny happened. Write about the exciting or funny experience and what happened.
- Think about a time you practiced or prepared for an important event. Write about what happened. Be sure to include details.
- Imagine you are any animal you want to be for a day. Write to tell where you live and what you do. Be sure to include details in your story.
- Imagine a fish popped its head out of the water and said something. What would you do? Write a story about what happened. Be sure to include details in your story.
- Think about a time when you were brave. Perhaps you had to speak in front of the class, do something that was difficult, or ride a fast roller coaster. Write about what happened. Be specific and include details.
- Imagine yourself as a superhero. You might be able to see through walls, fly, or swim like a fish. Write about your superhuman power and what happens when you use it.
- Think of a time when someone did something special for you. Perhaps the person sent a card, helped with homework, or cooked a food you like. Write about this time and include details.
- Imagine you and a friend found a spaceship. The door opened and you looked inside. Write about what happened.
- Imagine your friend has a car that talks and flies. The car can do other amazing things too. Your friend takes you for a ride. Write to tell what happened when your friend took you for a ride in the car.
- Imagine a helicopter with a famous person on board landed near your school. The person was coming to visit your class. Who was the person, and what happened when he or she came to your classroom?
- Imagine one day you were outside and came across a vine-covered stone wall. In the middle of the wall was a locked wooden gate with a golden key hanging next to it. Using details, write a story about what happened.
- Imagine you were awakened one morning by a talking parrot. "I know where a treasure is buried," it squawked. Using details, write a story about what happened.
- Think about your favorite year in school. Was it kindergarten, first grade, second grade, or another grade? Write to explain why the year you chose was your favorite.
- Describe one of your favorite activities. Tell what you like to do and explain why this is your favorite activity. Tell about your favorite season. What do you do during the season? Why is it your favorite?
- Think of a time when you were proud of yourself. What happened? Why was it such an important moment for you?
- It has been said that one of the most important things in life is a good friend. Write about someone you think has been a good friend to you.
- What is your favorite subject in school? Tell about that subject and explain your reasons for choosing it.
- Imagine that you are suddenly able to fly whenever you want. Where would you go? What would you do? Write to explain your new talent and how you would use it.
- Think back to a moment you'll never forget. Write about what happened and why you will always remember it. Be specific and include as many details as possible.
- Write about a place where you have fun. Describe what you did there and why it was so much fun.
- Your teacher placed an old wooden chest in the center of the classroom. Your assignment is to create a story explaining where it came from, what it was used for and who previously owned it. Be creative and include as many details as possible.
- Think about something you enjoy doing. Describe it so that someone could understand why you enjoy doing it. Be sure to use specific details.
- Write about a time when you saw something really beautiful OR something really interesting. Describe what you saw so that someone would be able to understand why it was beautiful or interesting. Be sure to use specific details.