

48 Writing Reference Charts Included

The Writing Process

Brainstorm
Think about all the ideas you have for your writing. You can use a web to help jot them down.

Draft
Start writing your piece with the end in mind. Begin writing your ideas in order.

Revise
Re-read what you have written and think about how you can improve it. You might add or remove some parts of your writing.

Edit
Re-read your writing and look carefully for spelling, capitalization, or punctuation mistakes. Fix any mistakes you can find.

Publish
Rewrite or type your piece so it is formatted exactly how you want. This is the version your readers will read.

Strong Verbs

When you write, you want to use strong verbs. These verbs are more specific than weak verbs. You can use a thesaurus to help you find strong verbs.

WEAK VERBS	STRONG VERBS
Run	--sprint --dash --scramble --dart --rush --bound --scamper
Look	--glare --glance --store --peek --gaze --view --leer --squint
Eat	--devour --inhale --consume --dine --nibble --chew --munch --groze

Giving Peer Feedback

When giving feedback, remember:

- Be Kind
- Be Specific
- Be Helpful

You can use TAG to help give feedback.

T Tell Something You Liked
Start your feedback by sharing something you liked about their writing. Let them know what part you really liked.

A Ask a Question
Ask a thoughtful question. Maybe you have a clarifying question or are wondering something.

G Give a Suggestion
Share a kind suggestion for something you think they could add or change to improve their writing.

Editing Marks

<u>A</u>	Capitalize a letter
A	Change to lowercase
Λ	Insert a word
¶	Indent Paragraph
o u r d	Spelling mistake
○ ○ ○ ○	Insert punctuation
The <u>o</u> day ran.	Close up space
The ear dog	Delete or take out

Stretch Your Sentence

The kids played outside.

Add Adjectives	The fourth grade kids played outside.
When?	On Tuesday, the fourth grade kids played outside.
Where?	On Tuesday, the fourth grade kids played outside on the playground.
How?	On Tuesday, the fourth grade kids played outside on the playground.
Why?	On Monday, Miss Jones sings in her classroom to welcome her students.

Paragraph Writing

When you write a paragraph, think of a hamburger. You want to make sure you include the following types of sentences in each paragraph.

Topic Sentence

Detail #1

Detail #2

Detail #3

Conclusion

What Can I Write?

/ Fictional Story	/ Opinion Piece
/ Journal Entry	/ Recipe
/ Poem	/ Memoir
/ Letter	/ Drama or Play
/ How-to Piece	/ Short Story
/ Blog Post	/ Speech
/ E-mail	/ Book Report
/ Advertisement	/ Research Paper
/ Narrative	/ Essay
/ Informational Piece	/ Social Media Post
/ Book	/ Expository

Punctuation

Periods ● Used at the end of most sentences. Used to end a statement.	Commas ,
Exclamation Marks ! Used at the end of an exclamation.	Question Marks ? Used at the end of a question.
Quotation Marks " "	Ellipses ...

VOICES

Make sure your writing includes these six traits.

V – Voice
Your writing should sound like you talk. Let your personality shine through.

O – Organization
Write with a plan. Tell stories in order and use text structure for non-fiction writing.

I – Ideas
Share ideas that are important or interesting to you. Make them appeal to your reader.

C – Conventions
Make sure you follow all the rules for grammar and spelling. Revise and Edit.

E – Expand Vocabulary
Use specific and descriptive words. Use a thesaurus to help use exciting words.

S – Sentence Fluency
Make sure your writing is smooth and fluid. It should be easy for your reader to read.

Generating Ideas

Writers can write about ANYTHING! If you are stuck, try writing about the following:

- ❖ Important people in your life
- ❖ Holidays or special events
- ❖ Memories from your childhood
- ❖ Favorite things
- ❖ Write an imaginary story
- ❖ Books you've read
- ❖ Research the answer to a question you have
- ❖ Interesting places you've visited
- ❖ Important lessons you've learned

Said is Dead

When you use dialogue, think about the emotion you want to show. Use these words instead of said.

HAPPY WORDS	SAD WORDS
• Agreed	• Bawled
• Bragged	• Cried
• Chatted	• Mumbled
• Cheered	• Sobbed
• Exclaimed	• Wept
• Joked	• Whispered
ANGRY WORDS	OTHER WORDS
• Argued	• Added
• Growled	• Bobbled
• Hissed	• Chortled
• Scolded	• Grumbled
• Snapped	• Muttered
• Yelled	• Sneered

RACES

A strategy for answering open-ended questions.

R Restate the question.
Turn the question into a statement. Cross off the question word and rewrite it as a statement.

A Answer the question.
Write your answer for all parts of the question. Sometimes it needs to be its own sentence.

C Cite your evidence.
Use examples from the text. Share specific facts and details that support your answer.

E Explain your reasoning.
Explain how your evidence supports your answer. This is where you can make connections.

S Sum it all up.
End with a sentence that summarizes your thinking.

Narrative Hooks

Experiment with using these hooks in your narrative.

Question	What is the craziest gift you've ever received for your birthday? You'll never believe what I got for my 15th birthday.
Dialogue	"Want to go for a boat ride?" my dad asked one Saturday afternoon. "I've got something neat to show you."
Strong Emotion	Fear and excitement both found their home in my heart that day.
Sound words	Crack! Boom! Bang! I never knew how loud fireworks were before my crazy birthday adventure.
Setting	The air was hot, still, and stale. I was sprawled across a lawn chair when I saw my dad walk towards me with the boat keys in his hand.

OREO

A strategy for writing an opinion piece.

Opinion
State your opinion. Tell how you feel about the topic or what you believe.

Reasons
State some reasons or information that supports your opinion.

Explain
Give details or examples that help explain your position or stance.

Opinion
Restate your opinion and include a strong emotion or feeling.

Sentence Starters:

• In my opinion...	• I think...
• Everyone should...	• I feel...
• I believe...	• I prefer...

Writing Checklist for Narrative Writing

☐ I use a hook that grabs my reader's attention.

☐ My writing focuses on a small moment.

☐ My writing has a beginning, a middle, and an end.

☐ My writing is told in sequential order.

☐ I used transition words.

☐ My writing includes dialogue.

☐ My writing details about the characters' traits and feelings.

☐ I conclude my narrative in a thoughtful way.

Overused Words

like	smart	nice
enjoy prefer admire adore treasure love cherish appreciate relish respect	brilliant knowledgeable clever keen educated well-informed astute cunning bright	kind caring compassionate tender loving gentle sympathetic helpful considerate accommodating
happy	Fun	pretty
joyful content pleased glad gleeful thrilled elated overjoyed jubilant	delightful enjoyable amusing pleasurable great pleasant gratifying entertaining	beautiful stunning gorgeous cute handsome attractive smart striking elegant

ARMS

A strategy to help you revise your writing.

A – Add
Add sentences to help clarify meaning. Add words that are more descriptive. Add figurative language to make it interesting.

R – Remove
Remove sentences that aren't needed. Remove incomplete sentences. Remove words that are repeated.

M – Move
Move sentences that don't belong. Move adjectives so they are describing the right nouns.

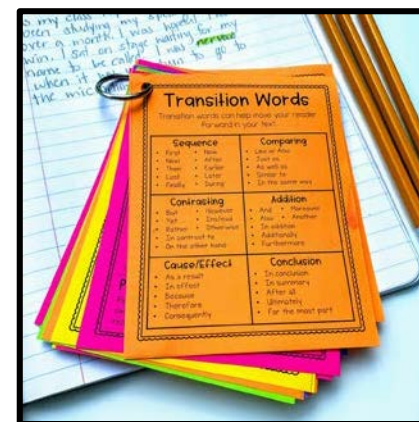
S – Substitute
Trade boring words for exciting words. Use a thesaurus to help you add more specific words.

Transition Words

Transition words can help move your reader forward in your text.

Sequence	Comparing
• First	• Like or Also
• Next	• After
• Then	• Earlier
• Last	• Later
• Finally	• During
• In the same way	
Contrasting	Addition
• But	• And
• Yet	• However
• Rather	• Also
• In contrast to	• In addition
• On the other hand	• Additionally
	• Furthermore
Cause/Effect	Conclusion
• As a result	• In conclusion
• In effect	• In summary
• Because	• After all
• Therefore	• Ultimately
• Consequently	• For

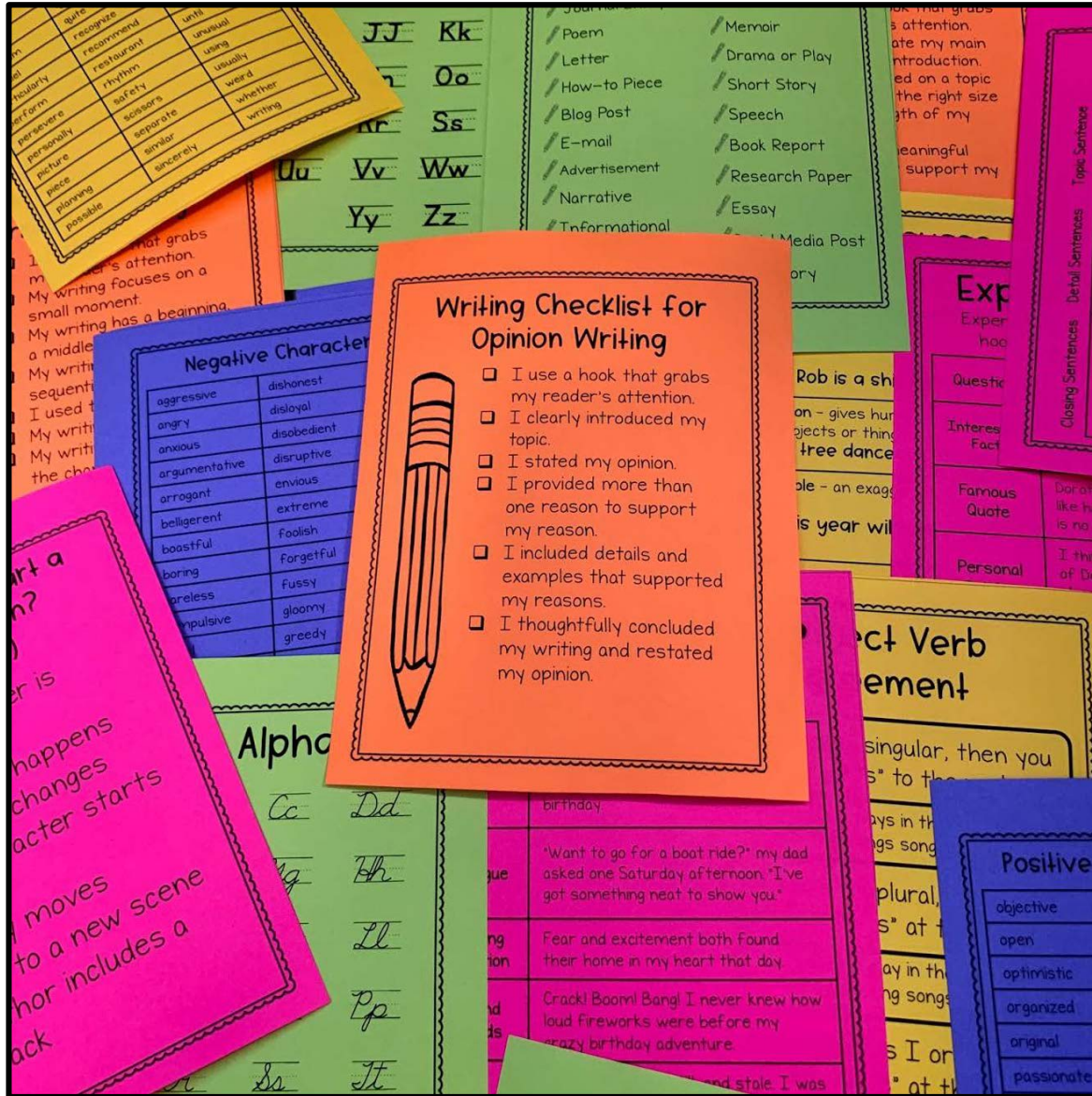
What Charts Are Included?



- The Writing Process
- ARMS
- CUPS
- VOICES
- MINTS
- COPS
- OREO
- RACES
- RAP
- RAFT
- Parts of Speech
- Capitalization Rules
- Punctuation
- Contractions
- Strong Verbs
- Said is Dead
- Transition Words
- Stretch Your Sentences (2x)
- Generating Ideas
- Editing Marks
- Changing Paragraphs
- Narrative Hooks
- Expository Hooks
- Giving Peer Feedback
- Common Homophones
- Stretch Your Sentences (2x)
- Narrative Writing Prompts
- Opinion Writing Prompts
- Expository Writing Prompts
- Informational Writing Prompts
- Paragraph Writing
- Opinion Checklist
- Narrative Checklist
- Informational Checklist
- Commonly Misspelled Words (2x)
- Subject/Verb Agreement
- Figurative Language
- Informational Sentence Stems
- Cursive Alphabet
- Printed Alphabet
- What Can I Write?
- Positive Character Traits (2x)
- Negative Character Traits (2x)
- Narrative Conclusions
- Overused Words



Great Student Resource!



- Each card gives a quick reminder, visual, or prompt for an important writing skill or strategy.
- You can give each student their own resource ring or you can keep in a writing station.
- Students can easily reference if they get stuck on something during independent writing time.

