



STATE OF CONNECTICUT
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION



To: Superintendents of Schools

From: Ajit Gopalakrishnan *Ajit Gopalakrishnan*
Chief Performance Officer

Date: November 2, 2017

Subject: Connecticut Writing Portfolio Guides for the Assessment of Writing in Grades K-2

I am pleased to provide the following optional writing resources for early elementary educators in kindergarten, first, and second grade. These resources align to the [Connecticut Core Standards](#) and can support educators in assessing writing and informing instruction of narrative, informational, and opinion writing throughout the school year. A description of these resources is included below. On the next page, all resources are hyperlinked for easy access.

Writing Portfolio Guides:

The Writing Portfolio Guides for Grades K-2 include materials that can be used by teachers to complement the instruction of writing over the course of the school year. Each guide includes a sample reading text and writing prompt that can be replicated or used as a model when assessing student writing and growth over time. Though the prompt focuses on only one particular purpose for writing, each guide includes scoring rubrics and a collection of transcribed and annotated student response anchor papers. These resources can be embedded with a variety of grade-appropriate texts and writing activities to inform student writing in the classroom. The following guides are available:

- [Writing Portfolio Guide for Kindergarten Opinion Writing](#)
- [Writing Portfolio Guide for Grade 1 Opinion Writing](#)
- [Writing Portfolio Guide for Grade 2 Informational Writing](#)

Teacher Scoring Rubrics for Writing:

Scoring rubrics for Grades K-2 were developed for narrative, opinion, and informational writing with a focus on three specific indices: Organization/Purpose, Evidence/Elaboration, and Conventions. The scoring rubrics are meant to be generalizable and can be used with a variety of writing assignments across content areas and purposes. They can be used in part, to focus on one particular dimension such as using Evidence/Elaboration, or in their entirety, to identify students' strengths and weaknesses in writing.

Student Writer Checklists:

In an effort to promote active learning and student engagement, Student Writer Checklists were developed to guide the writing process. While one checklist is available in kindergarten, three checklists specific to narrative, opinion, and informational writing are available in Grades 1 and 2. These checklists can be modified by teachers to support the specific areas of focus for student writers.

Throughout the fall and winter months, the CSDE collaborated with the Writing Assessment Advisory Committee to discuss writing instruction and to carefully review and edit the resources that were referenced in this letter. The CSDE is most appreciative of the expertise and dedication of this group.

All materials can be accessed by clicking the appropriate links in the table below.

Connecticut Writing Portfolio Resources for Grades K-2			
	Purpose for Writing		
Grade	Narrative Writing	Opinion Writing	Informational Writing
K	Narrative Writing Rubric	Writing Portfolio Guide (includes opinion writing rubric, transcribed/annotated anchor papers, and a student writer checklist). Opinion Writing Rubric	Informational Writing Rubric
	Student Writer Checklist (appropriate for all purposes for writing)		
1	Narrative Writing Rubric Student Writer Checklist	Writing Portfolio Guide (includes opinion writing rubric, transcribed/annotated anchor papers, and a student writer checklist). Opinion Writing Rubric Student Writer Checklist	Informational Writing Rubric Student Writer Checklist
2	Narrative Writing Rubric Student Writer Checklist	Opinion Writing Rubric Student Writer Checklist	Writing Portfolio Guide (includes informational writing rubric, transcribed/annotated anchor papers, and a student writer checklist). Informational Writing Rubric Student Writer Checklist

We hope that you find these materials useful. The CSDE will be working with the Writing Assessment Advisory Committee to develop Portfolio Guides for the other writing purposes in the three grades. Please direct any questions to the Performance Office at 860-713-6860 or via e-mail at CTStudentAssessment@ct.gov.

cc: Abe Krisst, Bureau Chief