

The Necessary Nine of Writing



Are you using ...	Tick and date when covered in class
Paragraphs?	
Varied punctuation?	
The semi-colon and colon?	
A variety of sentence lengths?	
Topic sentences?	
Different ways to start sentences and paragraphs? You should be using connectives to start some sentences (<i>Although ...</i>) and adverbs to start others (<i>Suddenly ... In the ... Absentmindedly ...</i>).	
Connectives?	
Links between paragraphs?	
Commas to separate clauses?	

Newspaper Article

Newspaper features		Text and sentence structure	
A good headline		Variety of sentence lengths	
Standfirst – Who? What? When? Why?		Present tense	
Plenty of drama – words like <i>crash</i> , <i>horror</i> , <i>shock</i>		Appropriate degree of formality	
Economy with words		Links between paragraphs	
Facts and opinions		Connectives	
Reported and direct speech – eyewitness accounts		Topic sentences	
Viewpoint sustained		Punctuation variation	
		Short paragraphs	

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Level:

Descriptive Writing

Descriptive features		Text and sentence structure	
Use of the senses		Variety of sentence lengths	
Specific and atmospheric details		Skilled use of tenses	
Well-chosen verbs and adverbs		Links between paragraphs	
Adjectives		Connectives	
Original ideas and interest created and sustained		Different ways of starting sentences: connectives, adverbs ...	
Descriptive voice is secure and confident		Punctuation variation including the semi-colon	
Range of stylistic devices: alliteration, repetition for effect, simile, metaphor, onomatopoeia ...		Short paragraphs	
		Commas to separate clauses	
		Short, simple sentences for impact	

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		Short, simple sentences for impact	

Level:

Story Writing

Story features		Text and sentence structure	
A beginning that intrigues the reader		Variety of sentence lengths to vary the pace. Include at least one sentence of one word and two sentences not starting with a noun	
Uses all of the senses		Correct use of tenses	
Uses metaphors and similes to create pictures		Correct use of speech punctuation	
Uses interesting verbs		Links between paragraphs and varied ways of opening paragraphs	
Uses only a small amount of dialogue		Punctuation variation	
Uses some description			
Has a clear beginning, middle and end			

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