

3rd Grade — Writing Genre & Response-Type Progression

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How the writing response grows across the year — from choosing a genre, to short responses, to extended and argumentative writing, to paired-passage synthesis, poetry, and research.

CLUSTER	RESPONSE TYPE	WRITING GENRE	READING GENRE	WHAT THIS CLUSTER ADDS
Prepare	Genre Selection + Narrative	Personal Narrative	<i>Narrative (Fiction)</i>	Foundation: identify topic, purpose, and audience, then choose the response genre before drafting (esp. narrative / TRAILS).
Cluster 1	Short Constructed Response (SCR)	Informative	<i>Nonfiction</i>	Introduces the core response skeleton: central idea + evidence + explanation.
Cluster 2	SCR with TREES	Informative	<i>Nonfiction (Biography)</i>	Adds explicit structure to the SCR — Thesis, Reason/Way, and Evidence, one branch at a time.
Cluster 3	SCR — Reasons & Matching	Informative	<i>Nonfiction + Fiction</i>	Deepens reason/evidence alignment: analyze WHY prompts and match strong reasons, evidence, and explanations.
Cluster 4	Informational ECR	Informative	<i>Nonfiction</i>	Steps up from SCR to the extended, multi-paragraph response — MICE inferencing + the GET SET introduction.
Cluster 5	Paired-Passage ECR	Informative	<i>Nonfiction (Biography, paired)</i>	Adds source synthesis and the full paper shape — connect two texts + the R1/R2/R3 conclusion, color-coded.
Cluster 6	Argumentative	Opinion / Argumentative	<i>Fiction</i>	Turns the ECR toward argument and audience persuasion — claim + reasons (CREATURES) + a persuasive letter.
Cluster 7	Poetry (LEAVES)	Poetry	<i>Poetry</i>	Broadens genre range into literary craft and voice — read and write poetry across the LEAVES elements at rising stamina.
Cluster 8	Research Paper	Research	<i>Nonfiction (Social Studies)</i>	Capstone: pulls the whole year into one sustained, sourced proof — synthesize many sources into one five-paragraph paper (SET + R-E1-E2 + R1-R2-R3).

Vertical thread: every cluster reuses the prior skills. The central idea (Cluster 1) becomes the thesis of the ECR (Clusters 4-5), the claim of the argument (Cluster 6), and the thesis of the research paper (Cluster 8). Evidence + explanation (E1/E2) and the R1-R2-R3 conclusion recur from Cluster 5 onward.

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