

5th Grade — Writing Genre & Response-Type Progression

Teach BIG® Writing Curriculum • The Writing Academy®, LLC • Grade 5

How writing grows across Grade 5 - from choosing a genre, to short and extended responses, to argument, paired-passage synthesis, correspondence, narrative and poetry, and research.

CLUSTER	RESPONSE TYPE	WRITING GENRE	READING GENRE	WHAT THIS CLUSTER ADDS
Prepare	Genre Selection + Personal Narrative	Personal Narrative	<i>Fiction</i>	Foundation: identify topic, purpose, and audience; choose a response genre and plan a narrative with TRAILS.
Cluster 1	Short Constructed Response (SCR)	Informative	<i>Nonfiction + Fiction</i>	Builds the compact response: precise thesis, evidence, and explanation for WHAT, WHY, and HOW prompts.
Cluster 2	Informative ECR - TREE	Informative	<i>Nonfiction</i>	Steps from SCR into an extended response: shape the prompt, build a thesis, organize reasons or ways, and select CSI evidence.
Cluster 3	Full Informative ECR	Informative	<i>Poetry + Drama</i>	Applies full ECR work to literary texts, including hidden WHY/HOW prompt clues, topic sentences, and proof chains.
Cluster 4	Argumentative ECR	Opinion / Argumentative	<i>Fiction + Nonfiction</i>	Introduces the full CREATURES roadmap: claim, reasons, evidence, argument, thinking, other viewpoints, rebuttal, ending, and significance.
Cluster 5	Paired-Passage ECR	Informative	<i>Nonfiction + Historical Fiction</i>	Adds source synthesis: balance both passages, explain relationships, and close with the R1-R2-R3 conclusion.
Cluster 6	Argumentative Correspondence	Argumentative Correspondence	<i>Nonfiction + Historical Fiction</i>	Transfers CREATURES to a letter for a real or simulated audience, including respectful register and a genuine request.
Cluster 7	Narrative & Poetry	Narrative + Poetry	<i>Poetry</i>	Broadens craft through TRAILS and LEAVES: voice, evidence-earned change, artistic language, sound, and significance.
Cluster 8	Research Paper	Research / Inquiry	<i>Civic + process evidence banks</i>	Capstone: synthesize sources to explain how challenges, evidence, choices, actions, consequences, and revision create change.

Vertical thread: Grade 5 moves from genre selection and a precise SCR to informative ECR, argument, paired-source synthesis, correspondence, narrative and poetry, and a research capstone. Thesis, evidence, explanation, and significance deepen and transfer across the year.

Copyright 2027 The Writing Academy® LLC