

**THE WRITING CLUB**

Sydney's writing specialist

**FREE GUIDE**

# NAPLAN Writing Success Guide

Strategies, structures and samples to help  
your child write with confidence on the day.

Thornleigh · Online

## KNOW THE TASK

# How NAPLAN writing is marked

NAPLAN writing is assessed against ten explicit criteria — including audience, text structure, ideas, persuasive/creative devices, vocabulary, cohesion, paragraphing, sentence structure, punctuation and spelling. Students sit it in Years 3, 5, 7 and 9, responding to either a persuasive or a narrative prompt.

Because the marking is criteria-based, marks are there for the taking with structure and technique — you don't need a brilliant idea, you need a well-built piece.

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## WHERE MARKS ARE WON AND LOST

- **Paragraphing** each new idea gets its own paragraph — an easy, visible win.
- **Text structure** a clear beginning, middle and end that matches the text type.
- **Cohesion** linking words and referring words that hold the piece together.
- **Punctuation & spelling** consistent, accurate basics lift the whole script.



## TWO STRUCTURES TO OWN

# Persuasive and narrative skeletons

### Persuasive

- **Hook + position.** Grab attention, then state your stance clearly.
- **Three arguments.** Strongest first; claim, reason, example in each paragraph.
- **Counter + rebuttal.** Acknowledge the other side, then dismantle it.
- **Conclusion.** Restate the position with force.

### Narrative

- **Orientation.** Establish character, place and mood quickly.
- **Complication.** Introduce the problem that drives the story.
- **Climax.** The turning point everything hinges on.
- **Resolution.** Resolve with intent and leave a feeling.



## ON THE DAY

# A simple timing plan (40 minutes)

## 01 Plan — 5 minutes

Decode the prompt and jot a one-line skeleton before writing.

## 02 Write — 30 minutes

Draft to the plan at a steady pace; keep paragraphs tight.

## 03 Edit — 5 minutes

Read back for sense, punctuation and dropped words.

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### EDITING CHECKLIST

- ☐ New paragraph for every new idea?
- ☐ Linking words between paragraphs?
- ☐ Varied sentence openings and lengths?
- ☐ Capital letters, full stops and spelling checked?



NEXT STEP

# Turn strategy into a score.

Our programs build the exact skills NAPLAN rewards, with timed practice and written feedback every week. Book a free writing assessment and we'll map out a plan for your child.

**Book your free assessment**  
[thewritingclub.com.au](http://thewritingclub.com.au)

**Talk to us**  
[info@thewritingclub.com.au](mailto:info@thewritingclub.com.au)