

YEAR 5

Year 5 NAPLAN Guide

Is Your Child Ready for Selective & NAPLAN Success? A Practical Guide for Families.

About NAPLAN in Year 5

NAPLAN (National Assessment Program — Literacy and Numeracy) is sat by all Year 5 students across Australia. The results provide a snapshot of your child's literacy skills and are used by families, teachers and schools to identify areas for development. Strong Year 5 NAPLAN results also support applications for selective school and opportunity class pathways.

What Does NAPLAN Writing Assess in Year 5?

- ✓ Audience — writing that engages the intended reader effectively.
- ✓ Text Structure — correct structure for the nominated genre (narrative or persuasive).
- ✓ Ideas — content that is imaginative, relevant, elaborated and compelling.
- ✓ Persuasive Devices (persuasive) — use of rhetorical techniques to influence the reader.
- ✓ Character & Setting (narrative) — vivid, believable story world and characters.
- ✓ Vocabulary — sophisticated, precise and varied word choices.
- ✓ Cohesion — smooth, logical flow of ideas within and across paragraphs.
- ✓ Paragraphing, Sentence Structure, Punctuation and Spelling.

Year 5 Literacy Milestones

By the end of Year 5, students working at or above the Stage 3 standard are expected to:

Writing & Structure

- Produce well-structured persuasive essays and extended narratives independently.
- Use TEEL paragraph structure to organise body paragraphs effectively.
- Write a clear introduction with a thesis and a conclusion that reinforces the argument.
- Control text structure appropriate to purpose and audience.

Vocabulary & Language

- Use rhetorical devices: rhetorical questions, rule of three, emotive language.
- Select vocabulary for effect — moving beyond basic adjectives and verbs.
- Use modality (must, should, will) deliberately to strengthen persuasive writing.
- Apply figurative language purposefully in narrative and descriptive texts.

Grammar & Conventions

- Produce complex and compound-complex sentences with accuracy.
- Apply punctuation for effect: colons, semicolons, dashes, ellipses.
- Maintain consistent tense and point of view throughout extended writing.
- Use paragraphing deliberately and cohesively.

Comprehension & Analysis

- Identify and explain an author's purpose and intended audience.
- Make inferential and evaluative judgements about texts.
- Synthesise information from multiple sources.
- Distinguish between fact, opinion and bias in persuasive texts.

NAPLAN Writing Criteria — At a Glance

Criterion	What Markers Look For	Common Weakness
Audience	Consistent awareness of reader; appropriate register	Generic opening; no attempt to engage
Text Structure	Introduction, body paragraphs, conclusion clearly defined	Missing introduction or conclusion
Ideas	Elaborated, specific and compelling content	Listing ideas without development
Persuasive Devices	Rhetorical questions, emotive language, modality	Stating opinions without technique
Vocabulary	Precise, varied, sophisticated word choice	Repetition of basic vocabulary
Cohesion	Logical flow; connectives used effectively	Disjointed paragraphs; no linking
Paragraphing	Consistent paragraphing for organisation	Wall of text; no paragraph breaks
Sentence Structure	Varied sentence types for effect	All short, simple sentences
Punctuation	Accurate and varied punctuation	Full stops and commas only
Spelling	Correct spelling, including complex words	Avoidance of challenging vocabulary

Selective & OC Readiness Indicators

For students aiming for opportunity class (Year 5) or selective high school (Year 7), the following literacy indicators are essential:

Writing

- ✓ Writes fluently and accurately under timed conditions (30–40 minutes).
- ✓ Constructs multi-paragraph persuasive or narrative responses independently.
- ✓ Applies a wide range of vocabulary, sentence structures and techniques.
- ✓ Plans, drafts and self-edits with minimal prompting.

Reading & Comprehension

- ✓ Reads complex, multi-layered texts with comprehension.
- ✓ Identifies inference, subtext and author's perspective.
- ✓ Answers evaluative questions with textual evidence.
- ✓ Reads at an accelerated pace without loss of understanding.

Vocabulary

- ✓ Active vocabulary includes Tier 2 and Tier 3 academic words.
- ✓ Uses vocabulary precisely rather than approximately.
- ✓ Demonstrates understanding of synonyms, antonyms and word connotations.
- ✓ Applies new vocabulary in context across subjects.

Advanced Vocabulary Checklist

Strong vocabulary is a key differentiator in NAPLAN and selective assessments. Year 5 students should be using words from these categories:

Category	Examples
High-Modality Persuasion	indisputably, undeniably, unequivocally, it is imperative that, without question
Cause & Consequence	consequently, therefore, as a direct result, this inevitably leads to, thus
Concession & Contrast	despite this, while it may be argued, nevertheless, although, notwithstanding
Evaluation & Emphasis	significantly, profoundly, remarkably, critically, it is evident that
Narrative & Description	luminous, foreboding, tranquil, trembling, cascading, shimmering, eerie
Academic Connectives	furthermore, in addition, by contrast, to illustrate, for instance

Home Learning Strategies

1. Read Widely & Discuss Daily

15–20 minutes of reading across genres builds vocabulary, comprehension and background knowledge naturally.

2. Practise Timed Writing

Set a 30-minute timer and have your child write a persuasive essay from a prompt. Review structure together afterward.

3. Vocabulary Building

Introduce 5 Tier 2/3 words per week. Ask your child to use them in sentences and in their next piece of writing.

4. Analyse Persuasive Texts

Read newspaper editorials and letters together. Ask: 'What techniques are used? How does the author try to persuade you?'

5. Comprehension Practice

Use unseen passages with questions. Focus on inference: 'What does this suggest about the character?'

6. Oral Rehearsal Before Writing

Ask your child to explain their argument out loud before writing. This clarifies thinking and reduces on-page confusion.

7. Celebrate Ambitious Vocabulary

When your child uses a sophisticated word, acknowledge it. This reinforces the habit of reaching for better language.

Book a Free Academic Assessment — Valued at \$150

LAN & Selective Readiness Review | Personalised Learning Plan | Program Placement Advice