

GLOSSARY

audience: The intended readers of a written work.

author's craft: The choices the author/writer makes when writing a piece (the way the written piece is organized, the style of the piece, the images used in the piece, points of view, and the audience the piece is intended for).

cluster: A kind of prewriting in which the writer maps thoughts about a central topic showing how ideas are connected. The map suggests an organizational pattern for main ideas and supporting ideas.

context: The words, phrases, or passages that come before and after a particular word or passage in a piece of writing and help to explain its full meaning.

conventions: The rules of standard English usage, such as capitalization, punctuation, paragraphing, and spelling.

details: Sentences in the body of a paragraph that support and explain the main idea.

draft: A stage in the writing process. On the Writing WASL, the student is given two writing tasks, an expository and a persuasive, and will write a first draft (which will not be scored) and a final draft (which will be scored) for each task.

edit: To prepare the WASL writing task for the final draft by checking spelling, punctuation, capitalization, usage, paragraph indentation, neatness, and legibility.

expository writing: A piece of writing that explains an idea and informs the reader. An expository piece has a topic, main ideas and supporting details, and an organized pattern that includes an opening (introduction) and a closing (conclusion).

fiction: A made-up story that could appear to the reader to be true. Fiction has a title, named characters, and events that detail what happens.

figurative language (also known as figures of speech): Language not meant to be taken literally. Examples include metaphors, personification, hyperboles, and similes.

flashback: An interruption in the present action of a story to flash backward and tell what happened at an earlier time. Flashbacks can occur anywhere in the story and usually give background information. An example of a flashback may be an adult flashing back to his childhood.

foreshadowing: Giving hints or clues of what might happen at a future time in the story.

form: Organization of specific types of writing within a general category of purpose/mode (e.g., if the form is editorial, then purpose/mode is persuasive or possibly expository; or if the form is a tall tale, then purpose/mode is narrative).

free writing: A kind of prewriting in which the writer drafts quickly, without stopping, editing, or self-correcting, to see what he or she knows, thinks, or feels.

genres: Categories for literary and informational works (e.g., biography, mystery, historical fiction, poem).

imagery: Figurative language that is used to produce pictures in the mind and appeal to the senses.

main idea: The main reason a piece of writing was written. Usually, the main idea is found in the first sentence of each paragraph.

mode: A manner or form of writing. Examples of modes of writing include narratives, retellings, journals, letters, directions, invitations, thank-you notes, summaries, informational reports, and persuasive letters.

mood: Atmosphere (e.g., suspenseful, peaceful, mysterious, terrifying) created by the writer's purposeful choice of vocabulary, pacing, and details.

narrative writing: Writing about a series of events in a purposeful order (sequence) to tell a story; the writing can be fictional or factual. A narrative contains a plot, characters, setting, dialogue, chronological sequence, and theme.

nonfiction: Writing about real people, places, and things that are true.

paragraph: A group of sentences that are about a main idea. You can tell when a new paragraph begins when the first word of the sentence is indented or if a line space is inserted between sections of writing.

person: Point of view; the perspective from which the writer writes (e.g., first person, third person).

persuasive writing: Writing that convinces the designated audience to support a point of view, make a decision, or take an action.

plot: A series of events that make up a story. Plot tells what happens in a story. The plot includes rising action (introduction of the characters and their problems), climax (the most exciting moment in the story), and resolution (the final part of the story when the characters' problems are solved and the story ends).

prewriting: The thinking and planning the writer does before drafting, which includes considering the topic, audience, and purpose; gathering information; choosing a form (mode); determining the role of the writer; and making a plan.

prompt: A writing task. In each Writing WASL prompt, students will be instructed to write to a specific topic, audience, purpose, and form (i.e., a letter, multiple paragraphs, a story).

published work: The final draft shared with the audience.

revise: To rework your writing, to improve it.

summary: A piece of writing that states the main ideas, but does not include details that are not important.

technical writing: Type of expository writing (or sometimes persuasive writing) most often used to convey information (or to convince others) for technical or business purposes.

topic sentence: The topic sentence states the main idea of the paragraph.

transitions: Words or phrases that help make smooth connections between parts of a text.

voice: The sense of the person behind the writing (e.g., serious, honest, compassionate, or angry); writing that captures the correct level of distance, formality, or personality for the purpose of the writing and the audience.

word web: A graphic organizer created by the writer during prewriting. A web is used to gather and connect facts, ideas, concepts, and words.
