AASA Writing Student Checklist

Name _____ Date _____

How your essay is scored

Trait	Points
Purpose, Focus, and Organization	1–4
Evidence and Elaboration	1–4
Conventions	0–2
Total	**10**

Sources are graded, not just used

A 3 allows references to sources that are "general or imprecise." A 4 asks for **precise references**, smoothly worked into your writing.

To be scored in every trait, your essay must be in English, long enough, and **answer the prompt**.

You'll get one prompt: informative/explanatory, or opinion (grades 3–5) or argumentative (grades 6–8). Both types are given at every grade, so be ready for either.

Purpose, Focus, and Organization

- [ ] My claim or controlling idea is clear, and I keep it all the way through.
- [ ] My ideas move in a logical order, with varied transitions.
- [ ] My introduction and conclusion are satisfying, not just a restated prompt.
- [ ] **Argument, grades 7–8:** I clearly addressed the opposing claim.

Evidence and Elaboration

- [ ] I used thorough, relevant evidence from the sources.
- [ ] **Opinion or argument:** I used more than one source, not just my favorite.
- [ ] I named each source precisely, by its title, not just "the article."
- [ ] After each piece of evidence, I explained what it shows.
- [ ] My words are precise, and my sentences are varied.

Conventions

- [ ] I checked usage, punctuation, capitalization, sentence formation and spelling.
- [ ] I don't repeat the same kind of error throughout.

My plan

My claim or controlling idea

_____

_____

Evidence + source title

_____

_____

Opposing claim + my answer (grades 7–8)

_____

_____

The test shows an ADE Writing Guide with each prompt. Student summary based on ADE's AASA writing rubrics (grades 6–8 argumentative descriptors shown); not an official ADE document.