Georgia Milestones Writing Student Checklist

Name _____ Date _____

How your writing is scored

Trait	Points
1. Purpose and Organization	0–3
2. Evidence and Elaboration	0–3
3. Language Usage and Conventions	0–2
Total	**8**

Write enough

Very brief responses, even with few or no errors, may not earn the conventions points.

Use the provided sources, and don't copy them. Copied responses get a condition code instead of a score.

Grades 3 and 5 write **opinion** pieces; grade 8 and Literature and Composition II write **arguments** with a claim. Read "claim" below as "opinion" if you are in grade 3 or 5.

Trait 1: Purpose and Organization

- [ ] I clearly state my claim (or opinion) and stay focused on it.
- [ ] My introduction is strong and leads into my claim.
- [ ] My structure holds together: each paragraph has a clear job.
- [ ] I used effective transitions between ideas.
- [ ] My conclusion is strong and connects back to my claim.

Trait 2: Evidence and Elaboration

- [ ] I gave reasons that support my claim.
- [ ] I used relevant evidence **from more than one source**.
- [ ] I elaborated on my evidence, using the techniques we practiced.
- [ ] I named the source each time I used it.

Trait 3: Language Usage and Conventions

- [ ] My sentences are complete, and I varied them.
- [ ] I used verb tense correctly and wrote mostly in active voice.
- [ ] I proofread: any errors are small and don't get in the way of meaning.

My plan

My claim (or opinion)	**Reason 1 + source**	**Reason 2 + source**

You get a Writer's Checklist during the test, but you can't use it as scratch paper. Student summary based on GaDOE's Eight-Point, Three-Trait Writing Rubric (grade 8 top-score descriptors). Not an official GaDOE document.