IAR Writing Student Checklist

Name _____ Date _____

How your essays are scored

Essay	Main score	Conventions
Research or literary analysis	Reading Comprehension and Written Expression: 0–3 (grade 3), 0–4 (grades 4–8)	0–3
Narrative	Written Expression: 0–3 (grades 3–5), 0–4 (grades 6–8)	0–3

Two essays, about half your score

Everyone writes the **research** essay. Your second essay is **literary analysis** or **narrative**.

In grades 4–8, a research or literary essay counts for **12 written expression points** plus 4 reading points. Conventions count for 3.

Time plan: about **20%** planning, **70%** writing, **10%** revising. For a 45-minute essay that's about 9, 30 and 6 minutes. You can copy and paste quotes from the passages.

Research and literary analysis essays

- [ ] I answered **every part** of the prompt.
- [ ] My explanation of the texts is accurate.
- [ ] I organized my ideas in multiple paragraphs, with transitions.
- [ ] I supported each idea with accurate, relevant evidence from the texts.
- [ ] I named the source each time I used it (“According to the infographic...”).
- [ ] After each piece of evidence, I explained how it answers the prompt.

Narrative essays

- [ ] My story has multiple paragraphs.
- [ ] I used details from the original text.
- [ ] My beginning, middle and end are in a logical order.

Every essay

- [ ] My language is clear and effective.
- [ ] I checked grammar and mechanics before I submitted.

My plan: one paragraph at a time

My claim (for this paragraph)	**Evidence + source**	**How it answers the prompt**

Starting in 2027, a writing checklist comes with each essay on the test. Student summary based on ISBE's IAR ELA Writing Rubrics and Prose Constructed Response Writing Guide; not an official ISBE document.