MCAS Writing Student Checklist

Name _____ Date _____

Two kinds of writing

	Extended response	Essay (grades 6–8, 10)
Length	1 paragraph (gr. 3), 1–2 paragraphs (gr. 4–8)	4–5 paragraphs
Ideas score	Written Expression, up to 3	Idea Development, up to 5
Conventions	up to 2	up to 3
Total	**5**	**8**

Select and explain

The essay rubric rewards evidence "selection and explanation." A good quote with no explanation won't reach a 4.

Each question names the type of writing and the length. Watch the word counter.

Extended response

- [ ] I answered the question in my first sentence.
- [ ] I clearly explained my ideas.
- [ ] I used evidence from the passage thoroughly to support them.
- [ ] My ideas are clearly organized, and I stayed within the word limit.

Essay (grades 6–8 and 10)

- [ ] My central idea is specific, not general, and I develop it all the way through.
- [ ] I chose strong evidence and explained every piece of it.
- [ ] My organization is effective, and each paragraph supports my central idea.
- [ ] I wrote in the type of writing the question asked for.

Conventions (both)

- [ ] I checked sentence structure, grammar, usage and mechanics.
- [ ] I wrote enough: a very short essay can lose conventions points for length.

My plan

My answer or central idea	Evidence from the text	What it shows

Follows the 2027 MCAS design; there is no narrative writing. Extended response items follow DESE's grades 3–5 rubric. Student summary based on DESE's MCAS writing rubrics; not an official DESE document.