TCAP Writing Student Checklist

Name _____ Date _____

How each response is scored

Trait	Points
Focus & Organization	1–4
Development	1–4
Language	1–4
Conventions	1–4
Total	**16**

Evidence comes from the passage

An essay built on "mostly/only personal knowledge" lands in the **lowest** Development row.

Evidence means facts, definitions, details or quotations from the passages.

The prompt is opinion (grades 4–5) or argument, informational/explanatory, or narrative. In spring 2027 one prompt is a field test, and you won't know which, so give every prompt your full effort.

Focus & Organization

- [ ] My introduction and conclusion are effective.
- [ ] My argument or main idea is clear, and I stay focused on it.
- [ ] The connections among my claim, reasons and evidence are clear.
- [ ] **Argument, grades 6–8:** I acknowledged a counterclaim. **Grade 8:** I refuted it.

Development

- [ ] My evidence from the passages is well chosen and there's enough of it.
- [ ] I explained each piece of evidence thoroughly.

Language

- [ ] My vocabulary is precise, and my sentences are varied.
- [ ] I used varied transitions and a formal style.

Conventions

- [ ] I proofread, so any errors are minor and don't get in the way of my meaning.

My plan

My claim or main idea	Evidence from the passages	How it supports my claim

Grade 3 is scored on two traits, 1–4 each. Rubrics are applied as a whole, not as a checklist. Student summary based on TDOE's TCAP writing rubrics (grades 6–8 argument rubric shown); not an official TDOE document.