



**State of Texas Assessments of Academic Readiness (STAAR™)  
Performance Level Descriptors  
Grade 4 Writing (English and Spanish)**

**Performance Level Descriptors**

**Students achieving Masters Grade Level Performance can**

- Write thoughtful and engaging expository essays with sustained focus on a clear central idea, an organizing structure that is well suited to the expository task, and development that adds substance to the essay
- Choose sentences that are purposeful, varied, and well controlled

**Students achieving Meets Grade Level Performance can**

- Write expository essays that establish a clear central idea; use organizational strategies that are adequately suited to expository writing; sufficiently develop ideas with specific details, language, and examples that are appropriate to the explanatory purpose
- Revise drafts to strengthen the development of ideas by adding or deleting information, improve the sentence-to-sentence connections within paragraphs, and ensure that word choice is appropriate and sentences are controlled
- Demonstrate an adequate command of age-appropriate written conventions

**Students achieving Approaches Grade Level Performance can**

- Write expository essays with a weak or unclear central idea; use organizational strategies that are somewhat suited to expository writing; minimally develop ideas with details and examples that are not always appropriate to the explanatory purpose
- Use correct sentence structures
- Edit drafts to correct errors in grammar, sentence structure, capitalization, punctuation, and spelling

**Students achieving Did Not Meet Grade Level Performance can**

- Write basic or limited essays that are marginally suited to the expository purpose and minimally developed
- Demonstrate a partial command of written conventions and sentence structures
- Demonstrate limited skills in revision and editing