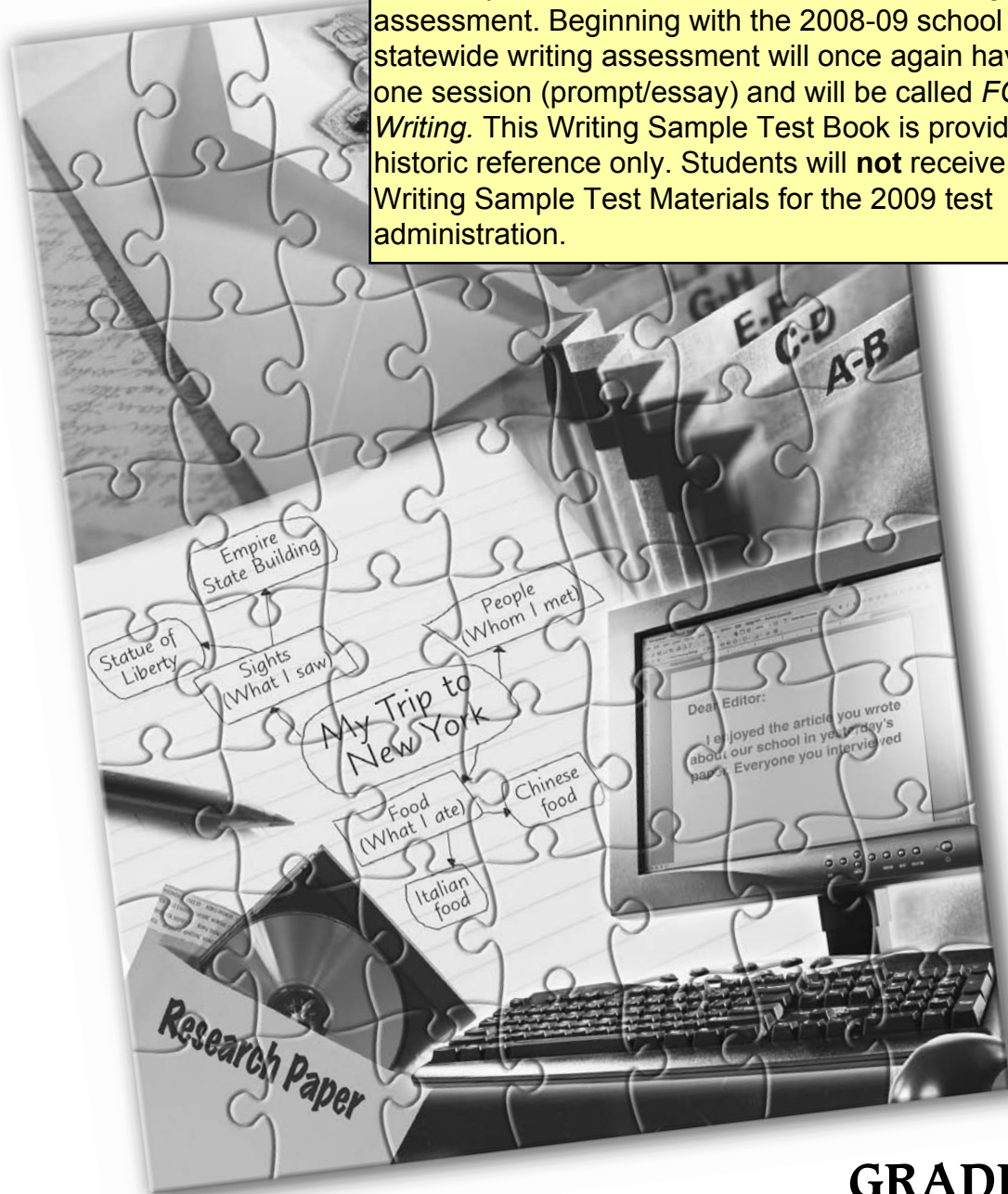


---

 Student Name \_\_\_\_\_

**Note:** On April 11, 2008, the State Board of Education approved the Commissioner's recommendation to remove the multiple-choice items from the *FCAT Writing+ (plus)* assessment. Beginning with the 2008-09 school year, the statewide writing assessment will once again have only one session (prompt/essay) and will be called *FCAT Writing*. This Writing Sample Test Book is provided for historic reference only. Students will **not** receive FCAT Writing Sample Test Materials for the 2009 test administration.



# Writing+

## Sample Test Book

GRADE

# 8

## FCAT Sample Test Materials

These sample test materials are designed to help you prepare to answer FCAT questions. These materials introduce you to the kinds of questions you will answer when you take the FCAT and include hints for responding to the different kinds of questions. The FCAT Writing+ sample test materials for Grade 8 include the following:

- Sample Test Book and Answer Sheet**  
Includes a sample prompt page, lined pages, a planning sheet for responding to the prompt, and a sample multiple-choice test with sample answer sheet. (Copies are available for all students in the tested grade.)
- Sample Answer Key**  
Includes explanations for the answers in the sample test. (Copies are available for classroom teachers only.)

= This book

### Copyright Statement for This Assessment and School Performance Publication

Authorization for reproduction of this document is hereby granted to persons acting in an official capacity within the Uniform System for Public K–12 Schools as defined in Section 1000.01(4), Florida Statutes. The copyright notice at the bottom of this page must be included in all copies.

All trademarks and trade names found in this publication are the property of their respective owners and are not associated with the publishers of this publication.

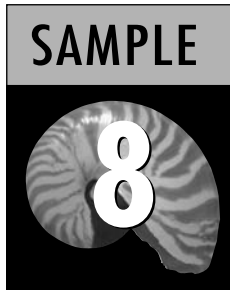
Permission is **NOT** granted for distribution or reproduction outside of the Uniform System for Public K–12 Schools or for commercial distribution of the copyrighted materials without written authorization from the Florida Department of Education. Questions regarding use of these copyrighted materials should be sent to the following:

The Administrator  
Assessment and School Performance  
Florida Department of Education  
Tallahassee, Florida 32399-0400

Copyright © 2006  
State of Florida  
Department of State

# FCAT Writing+

The writing assessment includes a prompt and multiple-choice questions.



## Table of Contents

**FCAT Writing+ Prompt Information . . . . . Page 2**

Prompt information and hints for completing this part of the test are provided. A sample prompt page, lined pages, and a planning sheet are included.

**FCAT Writing+ Sample Test:  
Multiple-Choice Questions . . . . . Page 9**

The FCAT Writing+ Sample Test consists of 23 practice questions that are similar to the questions on the FCAT.

**FCAT Writing+ Sample Answer Sheet . . . . . Page 25**

Before you start the FCAT Writing+ Sample Test, you may remove the Sample Answer Sheet by tearing along the dotted line. Your answers to the sample test questions should be placed on the Sample Answer Sheet.

# FCAT Writing+ Prompt Information

## Hints for Responding to the FCAT Writing+ Prompt

*Here are some hints to help you do your best when you respond to the FCAT Writing+ prompt. Keep these hints in mind when you write.*

- ✓ Read the prompt carefully.
- ✓ Plan your writing by organizing your ideas.
- ✓ Support your ideas by telling more about each reason or argument.
- ✓ Use a variety of sentence structures.
- ✓ Choose words that help others understand what you mean.
- ✓ Review and edit your writing.

## FCAT Writing+ Prompts

Below are examples of prompts. You may use one or both to practice your writing skills on pages 5–8. Your teacher may have other prompts for you to use.

### Example of an Expository Prompt

Below is an example of an expository prompt. The purpose of expository writing is to explain, define, or tell how to do something by giving information. The first part of the prompt presents the topic: chores. The second part suggests that you think about the importance of chores and then write about why it is important for teenagers to have chores.

Writing Situation:

*Most teenagers have chores.*

Directions for Writing:

*Think about why it is important for teenagers to have chores.*

*Now write to explain why it is important for teenagers to have chores.*

### Example of a Persuasive Prompt

Below is an example of a persuasive prompt. The purpose of persuasive writing is to convince the reader to accept your opinion or to take a specific action. The first part of the prompt focuses on the effect watching television may have on students' grades. The second part suggests that you think about the effect watching TV has on grades, and then write to persuade the principal to accept your point of view.

Writing Situation:

*The principal of your school has suggested that watching TV causes students' grades to drop.*

Directions for Writing:

*Think about the effect watching TV has on your grades and your friends' grades.*

*Now write to convince your principal whether watching TV causes students' grades to drop.*

## Florida's Writing Test

For the test you will be given a booklet with a prompt inside. You will have 45 minutes to read the prompt, plan what you want to write, and write your response. A separate planning sheet will be provided. You will respond to a prompt that asks you to explain or to a prompt that asks you to persuade.

What you write should be written neatly and should show that you can organize and express your thoughts clearly and completely. You may not use a dictionary or other reference materials.

### **Directions for Responding to the Prompt**

Pages 5–8 of this booklet show you what an FCAT prompt page, lined pages, and planning sheet look like. This sample test book is for practice only. On the actual test, the prompt will appear in the box on the prompt page. It is important to use the planning sheet to jot down ideas and organize your writing. Although the planning sheet is not scored, you must turn it in with your test.



# PROMPT

[On the actual test, an expository or a persuasive writing prompt is typed in this space.]

**SAMPLE**

**DO NOT WRITE ON THIS PAGE.**

Copyright  
State of Florida  
Department of State

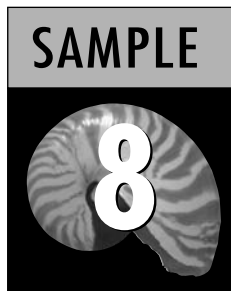








FCAT Writing+  
Sample Test:  
Multiple-Choice Questions



## Hints for Responding to the FCAT Writing+ Questions

*Here are some hints to help you do your best when you respond to the FCAT Writing+ multiple-choice questions.*

- ✓ **Think positively.** Some questions may seem hard, but others will be easy.
- ✓ **Relax and do your best.**
- ✓ **Learn how to answer each kind of question.** Some FCAT Writing+ multiple-choice questions have four answer choices, while others have three answer choices.
- ✓ **Read the directions carefully.** Ask your teacher to explain any directions you do not understand.
- ✓ **Read carefully, and answer the questions you are sure about first.** If a question seems too difficult, skip it, and go back to it later.
- ✓ **Be sure to fill in the answer bubbles completely.** Do not make any stray marks on the answer sheet.
- ✓ **Check each answer to make sure it is the best answer for the question.**

## Directions for Completing the Multiple-Choice Questions

The Sample Test contains 23 questions and a Sample Answer Sheet. It should take about 30 to 45 minutes to read the test and answer all the questions. You will mark your answers on the Sample Answer Sheet on page 25. You may write on the pages of this test booklet; however, do not make stray marks on the answer sheet.

Before you begin, remove the Sample Answer Sheet by tearing along the dotted line.

### What do these mean?

1

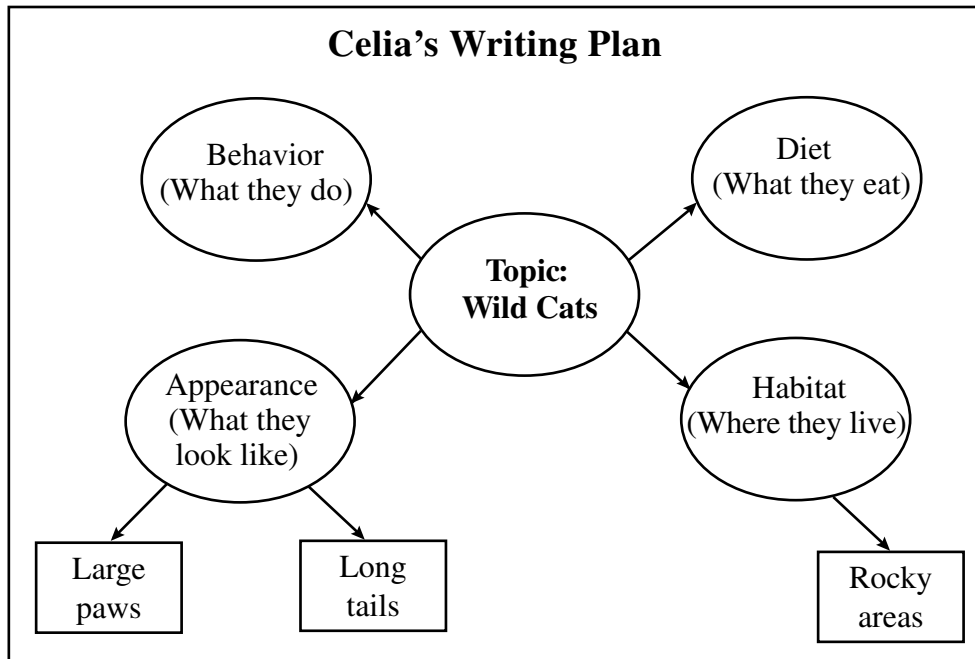
A symbol like this appears in the FCAT Writing+ test to show a sentence number.

→

This symbol appears in the FCAT Writing+ test to show a new paragraph.

The test includes the kinds of writing you often do or the kinds of writing you may see in your textbooks. Most of the writing is in draft form, and you will be asked to make changes to improve the writing.

Celia made the writing plan below to organize ideas for a paper. Use her writing plan to answer questions 1–3.



- 1** Under which subtopic should details about Grassy areas, Forests, and Mountains be placed?
- A. Appearance
  - B. Behavior
  - C. Diet
  - D. Habitat
- 2** Which detail below supports the subtopic "Behavior"?
- F. Sometimes wild cats are playful.
  - G. Some wild cats like cold climates with little rain.
  - H. Special markings help them blend into their surroundings.
  - I. Some examples of food sources are rodents, birds, and fish.
- 3** Based on the writing plan, what kind of paper is Celia planning to write?
- A. a paper that compares wild cats and pet cats
  - B. a paper that explains characteristics of wild cats
  - C. a paper that gives directions for drawing a wild cat
  - D. a paper that describes the decline of the wild cat population

The article below is a first draft that Antonio wrote for his teacher. The article contains errors. Read the article to answer questions 4–9.

### The Beginning of Organized Baseball

- [1] The first organized baseball teams and their rules go back to the 1840s. [2] At that time, a New Yorker named Alexander J. Cartwright wrote the first-known written rules of the game.
- [3] Baseball had been played for fun in America since the early 1800s. [4] During these early games, friends played baseball games using various rules. [5] In 1845, Cartwright and others formed the Knickerbockers Baseball Club. [6] This is when baseball history began to change.
- [7] Cartwright established the requirements for the modern baseball field, which became diamond-shaped with the pitcher's mound in the center. [8] His rules gave the requirements of the playing field. [9] Bases would be 90 feet apart. [10] His rules also described the area where a ball was considered to be out-of-bounds. [11] His changes allowed the fans to get closer to the playing field. [12] Cartwright improved baseball for the fans.
- [13] Over the next ten to fifteen years, teams playing by Cartwright's rules formed in the New York area. [14] New teams formed in many other cities. [15] In 1869, the first professional team, the Cincinnati Red Stockings, was formed. [16] Known as the Cincinnati Reds, it is still in existence today.
- [17] Baseball has become an American pastime. [18] Cartwright gave the game its first set of written rules and helped organize the sport. [19] Some of Cartwright's rules remain today. [20] For these reasons, he will always be remembered in baseball history. [21] Some baseball players were elected to the Baseball Hall of Fame.



- 4 Which sentence should be deleted because it presents a detail that is unimportant to the article?

F. sentence                       H. sentence   
G. sentence                       I. sentence

- 5 Read the sentence below from Antonio's article:

**At that time, a New Yorker named Alexander J. Cartwright wrote the first-known written rules of the game.**

Which revision below improves this sentence by removing the repetition?

- A. At that time, a New Yorker named Alexander J. Cartwright wrote the first formal rules of the game.
- B. At that time, a New Yorker named Alexander J. Cartwright was first to write the first-known written rules of the game.
- C. At that time, a New Yorker named Alexander J. Cartwright, a writer, wrote the first-known written rules of the game.
- D. At that time, a New Yorker named Alexander J. Cartwright was first to write the first-known recorded rules of the game.
- 6 Which sentence below should Antonio add to conclude the article?
- F. Baseball is an organized team sport.
- G. Baseball is a game for the young and old.
- H. Alexander J. Cartwright should have created different rules for baseball.
- I. Alexander J. Cartwright should be called the "father" of modern baseball.
- 7 Why does Antonio present the ideas in the article the way he does?
- A. He wants to compare baseball clubs to show how they are alike.
- B. He wants to show how the establishment of rules led to baseball becoming a nationally recognized sport.
- C. He wants to present the most important argument last to support his opinion about the popularity of baseball.
- D. He wants to emphasize the counterclockwise direction a player must follow when moving from base to base.

- 8 Which sentence below matches the tone of Antonio's article?
- F. The kind of stuff that Cartwright made up for rules was called the Knickerbocker rules.
  - G. The rules and regulations that Cartwright developed became known as the Knickerbocker rules.
  - H. The do's and don'ts that Cartwright had the smarts to think up were named the Knickerbocker rules.
  - I. The governing procedures conceived and prescribed by Cartwright were proclaimed to be regarded as the Knickerbocker rules.

- 9 Antonio wants to add the sentence below to his article:

**To do this, he mixed his own ideas for playing baseball with the requirements from an earlier form of the game called Rounders.**

Where should this sentence be added to keep the details in the correct order?

- A. after sentence
- B. after sentence
- C. after sentence
- D. after sentence

GO TO THE  
NEXT PAGE

The announcement below is a first draft that Jared wrote for his school's theater arts committee. The announcement contains errors. Read the announcement to answer questions 10–14.

### Actors Needed

- [1] Tryouts for the school's spring play will be held next week at school.
- [2] The auditions will start on Wednesday. [3] They will continue through Saturday. [4] To audition, students must be in sixth, seventh, or eighth grade.
- [5] Based on each student's performance at the tryouts, the theater arts committee will decide which student is best-suited for each part in the play.
- [6] The theater arts committee did not help with the auditions last year.
- [7] **The audition process will take place over a three-day period.**

#### Wednesday

- [8] First, the committee will ask students to read a short passage from the script. [9] The passage will not be long. [10] Students who are chosen will be asked to take a short passage home to memorize.

#### Thursday

- [11] Next, students who were selected to memorize the short passage from the script will meet at 3 P.M. to recite their lines. [12] Some students will be invited to a third audition on another date.

#### Saturday

- [13] The theater arts committee will announce the students who will play the lead and supporting roles in the play. [14] All students selected on Thursday will perform together.
- [15] All students interested in doing other things with the play should report to the gym at 9 A.M. [16] Please dress in comfortable clothes. [17] Be prepared to stay all day.

**10** Which sentence states information already presented and should be deleted from the announcement?

F. sentence

H. sentence

G. sentence

I. sentence

**11** Which transition should be added to the beginning of sentence  to show the connection between ideas in the announcement?

A. Still

C. In addition

B. Finally

D. Furthermore

**12** Which sentence below provides a detail that supports sentence ?

F. This will be the final audition.

G. In the past, only two auditions were held.

H. With practice, learning the passage should not take long.

I. The theater arts committee encourages all students to be respectful.

**13** Read the sentence below from the announcement:

**All students interested in doing other things with the play should report to the gym at 9 A.M.**

Which words should replace “doing other things with the play” in sentence  to make the wording most specific?

A. assisting others on their jobs

B. volunteering time on the play

C. helping others with their tasks

D. working on costumes and make-up

**14** Which sentence contains an unimportant detail that should be deleted from the announcement?

F. sentence

H. sentence

G. sentence

I. sentence

Read the article "Crocodiles and Alligators." Choose the word or words that correctly complete questions 15–18.



### Crocodiles and Alligators

Crocodiles and alligators are similar in appearance, but (15) different in many ways.

A crocodile weighs four times more than an alligator. A crocodile is brown with tan spots, but an alligator is usually dark gray or black. Some of a crocodile's teeth can be seen when its mouth (16).

Crocodile mothers stay with their (17) for several weeks. In contrast, young alligators must take care of (18). As soon as they hatch, baby alligators must swim and find food.

Alligators are found in the southern part of the United States. They live in rivers, lakes, and swamps. Crocodiles are found mainly in Africa, Australia, and India.

- 15** Which answer should go in blank (15)?
- A. their
  - B. there
  - C. they're
- 16** Which answer should go in blank (16)?
- F. is closed
  - G. are closed
  - H. was closed
- 17** Which answer should go in blank (17)?
- A. babbies
  - B. babies
  - C. babys
- 18** Which answer should go in blank (18)?
- F. theirselves
  - G. themselves
  - H. themselves

**19** In which sentence below is all **punctuation** correct?

- A. John spilled the bowl of cereal it splashed across the table.
- B. John spilled the bowl of cereal, it splashed across the table.
- C. John spilled the bowl of cereal; it splashed across the table.

**20** In which sentence below is all **capitalization** correct?

- F. We live beside the new grocery store on Main Street near Kennedy General Hospital.
- G. We live beside the new Grocery store on Main Street near Kennedy General Hospital.
- H. We live beside the new grocery store on Main street near Kennedy General Hospital.

**21** Read the sentence in the box.

**Running to the playground, Michael did not hear Carlos asking him to wait.**

Which sentence below expresses the same meaning as the sentence in the box?

- A. Michael, running to the playground, did not hear Carlos asking him to wait.
- B. Carlos, asking him to wait, did not hear Michael running to the playground.
- C. Michael did not hear Carlos, running to the playground, asking him to wait.

- 22 Combine the ideas in the box to create a logical sentence.

**running quickly  
to grab the dog  
my sister tried  
that had broken the leash**

Which sentence below correctly combines the ideas from the box?

- F. My sister tried to grab the dog that had broken the leash running quickly.
  - G. To grab the dog, my sister tried running quickly that had broken the leash.
  - H. Running quickly, my sister tried to grab the dog that had broken the leash.
- 23 Combine all the ideas in the box to create one logical sentence.

**Many children like to play.  
They like to play outside.  
When the weather is nice**

Which sentence below correctly combines the ideas in the box?

- A. Many children like to play, and play outside when the weather is nice.
- B. Many children like to play outside when the weather is nice.
- C. Many nice children like to play when the weather is outside.





This is the end of the Writing+ Sample Test.  
Until time is called, go back and check your work, or answer  
questions you did not complete. When you have finished, close  
your Sample Test Book.

GO TO THE  
NEXT PAGE

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Answer all the FCAT Writing+ multiple-choice questions on this Sample Answer Sheet.

1    A    B    C    D

2    F    G    H    I

3    A    B    C    D

4    F    G    H    I

5    A    B    C    D

6    F    G    H    I

7    A    B    C    D

8    F    G    H    I

9    A    B    C    D

10    F    G    H    I

11    A    B    C    D

12    F    G    H    I

13    A    B    C    D

14    F    G    H    I

15    A    B    C

16    F    G    H

17    A    B    C

18    F    G    H

19    A    B    C

20    F    G    H

21    A    B    C

22    F    G    H

23    A    B    C

Fold and Tear Carefully Along Dotted Line.

Fold and Tear Carefully Along Dotted Line.









**FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION**  
**www.fldoe.org**

Assessment and School Performance  
Florida Department of Education  
Tallahassee, Florida

Copyright © 2006 State of Florida Department of State

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 A B C D E

WRITING+

ISBN 999-8504-86-4



9 789998 504868