

ILLUSTRATING THE WRITING STANDARD

Dallas

This writing meets the demands of the curriculum at level 3. The writer records ideas and information in a journal as part of a science investigation.

The difference in the standard for year 8 [as compared with year 7] is the students' increased **accuracy** and **fluency** in writing a variety of texts across the curriculum, their **level of control and independence in selecting writing processes and strategies**, and the **range of texts** they write. In particular, by the end of year 8, students need to be **confidently and deliberately choosing the most appropriate processes and strategies** for writing in different learning areas. (*Reading and Writing Standards*, page 35 footnote)

The writer includes content that is usually relevant to the curriculum task, but there is minimal detail. He is developing his control over the writing processes and strategies he needs for selecting content, reflecting on his learning, and analysing research information. At this stage, his writing shows less independence in using a journal as a tool for exploring ideas and information, and less conciseness in his note taking than is expected in year 7. Therefore, this piece of writing aligns more closely to the standard at the end of year 6 than to that at the end of year 7.

The writer understands the purpose for writing. He records two simple inquiry ideas, which are framed as full questions, and some reflections. He is aware that the intended audience is largely himself, as he attempts to record in note form.

The writer has come up with his questions independently and has identified information to answer one of these questions. Findings from two separate websites are recorded, and while this information is likely to be "as found", there is an attempt to record it in note form by omitting conjunctions and articles.

Recognised the importance ...
... foods like fruits veges are good.

17/5/11 Procedural

Recognised the importance of precise instructions, built a pantograph didnt follow instructions didnt finish project need to read more clearly and make my instruction right in the future!

Why do humans let out gas?

How do humans grow

Conversation / 5.42 pm
Me, mum and Jordan discussing Ideas for science fair had some good Ideas.

Website / 5.46 pm
How do humans grow taller. ie how.com

Genes determine how tall a human will grow, also a diet, nutrition and exercise is good for childrens growth to, Foods like fruits veges are good.

The writer includes a record of his learning, in which he reflects on his mistakes. Because the record lists his actions and their consequences, this reflection is useful, suggesting that there will be a better outcome next time.

Recognised the importance of precise instructions, built a pantograph didnt follow instructions didnt finish project, need to read more clearly and make my instruction right in the future!

The writer has some understanding of the nature of a science journal (to record questions, thinking, and evidence, in an appropriate form). He uses grammatically incomplete sentences, although the words omitted are few.

Conversation/5.42 pm
Me, mum and Jordan discussing Ideas for science fair had some good Ideas.

The writer records his approach to the inquiry, which includes a conversation (to generate ideas) with members of his family. Although the time it took place and the people involved are recorded in his notebook, he has not included details of their conversation.

The writer has a less mature approach to the research than would be expected at years 7 or 8. This is indicated by the fact that he selects ideas based only on the human body and he changes from the generalised term "humans", which he uses in his questions, to use of the personal pronoun "we" in his findings.

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There is some sequence in the writing: a conversation is recorded, with the time given. Immediately following this entry are two further entries, each one recording a time, a website, and a record of website findings which are linked.

How do humans grow taller
How do humans grow

The writer reflects on one of the pieces of information – the size of the pituitary gland in relation to its outcome on human growth. He shows curiosity about the fact, and in order to make sense of it, identifies the need for more information.

Wierd how the thing that makes us grow metres is so small.
Need more info, very fascinating!

Website / S. Sl pm Answers.com
How do humans grow.

We grow from a powerful growth hormone secreted by pituitary gland and its

located near brain, size of a pea.

Wierd how the thing that makes us grow metres is so small.

Need more info, very fascinating!

Idea/Why do we sweat
18/5/11

Mr Hookham showed us a very safistacated science topic.

Why does radiation make babies have birth defects.

Idea ↗

Conclusion

My resules show that my hypothesis was accepted. Because hard/shiny surfaces has less friction, than uneven/bumpy surfaces

The writer includes a variety of topic-specific words, particularly verbs ("recognised", "follow", "finish", "read", "discussing") that describe his attempts at the research process.

The writer uses some topic-specific words in his website findings, including topic-specific nouns ("genes", "diet", "nutrition", "exercise", "growth", "hormone", "pituitary") and topic-related verbs ("determine", "secreted", "located"). Along with the topic-specific vocabulary, there is a controlled use of appropriate high-frequency words.

The writer uses the conventions of language (such as spelling and punctuation) with some inaccuracies.

While he writes independently to complete the curriculum task, at this stage there is little evidence that the writer is deliberate or confident in his use of this form of writing to clarify his thinking or that he understands the amount of detail required in scientific observations.