



**English Language Arts
Grade 7
Scoring Guide for
Released Item # 31
Writing from Knowledge
and Experience
Fall 2008**



PART 3

WRITING FROM KNOWLEDGE AND EXPERIENCE

DIRECTIONS:

You will be given a theme and a number of ways to write about it. You may use examples from real life, from what you read or watch, or from your imagination.

Your audience will be interested adults.

You may not use any resource materials (such as dictionaries, grammar books, or spelling books) for this test. Use only a No. 2 pencil.

Use the checklist for Part 3 to help with your response. The Notes/Planning space may be used for writing down and organizing your ideas.

Your response must be written on the lines in Part 3 of your **Answer Document**. Only the writing in your **Answer Document** will be scored. No extra sheets may be used.

Turn the page and follow along as I read the prompt to you.

WRITING FROM KNOWLEDGE AND EXPERIENCE**31 WRITE ABOUT THE THEME: COOPERATION**

There are many times and places in life when cooperation among people is helpful or necessary. While some people find it easy to cooperate, others may have more trouble doing so. Write about cooperation.

Do **ONLY ONE** of the following:

describe a time when people cooperated with others to get a job done

OR

tell about a time when cooperating with someone else was helpful

OR

describe how cooperation was necessary for someone's survival

OR

explain how people use cooperation to reach success

OR

tell about a time you were expected to cooperate against your own wishes

OR

write about cooperation in your own way.

**PART 3: CHECKLIST FOR
WRITING FROM KNOWLEDGE AND EXPERIENCE**

DIRECTIONS:

Use this checklist to help you with your response. Your response must be written on the lines in Part 3 of your **Answer Document**.

CHECKLIST:

- Do I have a clear central idea that connects to the theme?
- Do I stay focused on the theme?
- Do I support my central idea with important details/examples?
- Do I need to take out details/examples that DO NOT support my central idea?
- Do I use a variety of words, phrases, and/or sentences?
- Have I spelled, punctuated, and capitalized my writing to help readers understand it?

NOTES/PLANNING

Michigan Educational Assessment Program
Rubric for Writing from Knowledge and Experience
Grades 3 – 8

- 6** The writing is exceptionally clear and focused. Ideas and content are thoroughly developed with relevant details and examples where appropriate. The writer's control over organization and the connections between ideas moves the reader smoothly and naturally through the text. The writer shows a mature command of language including precise word choice that results in a compelling piece of writing. Tight control over language use and mastery of writing conventions contribute to the effect of the response.
- 5** The writing is clear and focused. Ideas and content are well developed with relevant details and examples where appropriate. The writer's control over organization and the connections between ideas effectively moves the reader through the text. The writer shows a command of language including precise word choice. The language is well controlled, and occasional lapses in writing conventions are hardly noticeable.
- 4** The writing is generally clear and focused. Ideas and content are developed with relevant details and examples where appropriate, although there may be some unevenness. The response is generally coherent, and its organization is functional. The writer's command of language, including word choice, supports meaning. Lapses in writing conventions are not distracting.
- 3** The writing is somewhat clear and focused. Ideas and content are developed with limited or partially successful use of examples and details. There may be evidence of an organizational structure, but it may be artificial or ineffective. Incomplete mastery over writing conventions and language use may interfere with meaning some of the time. Vocabulary may be basic.
- 2** The writing is only occasionally clear and focused. Ideas and content are underdeveloped. There may be little evidence of organizational structure. Vocabulary may be limited. Limited control over writing conventions may make the writing difficult to understand.
- 1** The writing is generally unclear and unfocused. Ideas and content are not developed or connected. There may be no noticeable organizational structure. Lack of control over writing conventions may make the writing difficult to understand.

Condition codes for unratable papers (zeroes):

A – Off-topic or insufficient

B – Written in a Language other than English or Illegible

C – Blank

me and my friends was doing a
good job on my Grandma's yard.
The lady said "if your friends
don't cooperate and my yard all
you'll going out

Anchor Paper 1**Score Point: 1**

This minimal response attempts to focus on cooperation (working in the yard) but the ideas and content are not developed. Lack of control over writing conventions make the response difficult to understand.

Cooperation is when you can get along
with someone and ~~Don't~~ They
Want or need to do. Like when my
brother wants to play some
thing and I ~~Don't~~ I will play
his and mine too.

Anchor Paper 2**Score Point: 1**

This response provides the student's definition of cooperation with only a single undeveloped example as support (...I will play his and mine too).

Cooperation is a way to talk to people. What I mean by talk is to discuss and agree with other people ^{nationally} ~~nationally~~ or locally. Cooperation is like team work. Its like a sport, theres 2 teams some times even more, but at the end most of the time everyone wins. Cooperation is like basic communication.

Anchor Paper 3**Score Point: 1**

This response is focused on cooperation but the ideas and content are not developed or connected. Organization is lacking; sentences could be interchanged and not alter meaning.

When I cooperate with my sister, it's usually when I help her clean her room. (my sister) is usually a very messy person. She has jewelry, hair clips, c.d's, dolls, markers, paper, clothes, etc.

The last time I cleaned her room is when we were having my grandma, and grandpa come over for dinner. Her room was tragic! I went to go clean out from under her bed, I found candy papers, a half of an apple that has clearly been there for a while! When she was putting her clothes away I was cleaning out the closet. The closet was probly the most organized!

About an hour an a half later we were done! We also got paid a job well done also. We each got ten dollars to share and spend at

the store

When my grandma, and grandpa got there, we ate. After we got done eating showed them room that me, and her cleaned. We also got a job well done.

The best part about cleaning her room is that we didn't fight!

Anchor Paper 4

Score Point: 2

This longer response is only occasionally clear as it repeatedly jumps from one underdeveloped idea to another (cleaning, what has, cleaning, reward, dinner, not fighting). Toward the end, some details become repetitive (We also got paid a job well done also...We also got a job well done.)

At 6th grade camp we had to use Cooperation all of the classes to get a good grade in them. When we were there we took a class called co-op.

Sometimes it is not fun cooperating because sometimes you do not want to cooperate at times because you may be in a bad mood. Sometimes partners take credit for your work and say that you did nothing but they truly know that that is not the truth.

In one point in time I had to use cooperation in school to complete one of my projects done together with my partner to end up with a good grade after all.

Anchor Paper 5

Score Point: 2

This response addresses the prompt but the focus shifts (took a class, not fun cooperating, cooperated to complete a project). There is no logical organization or progression of ideas. Ideas and content are underdeveloped.

A time that people had to cooperate to get the job done is at car factories. At car factories they have assembly lines. At assembly lines every one has there own job so if someone does not do there job the car can't be made. So every one has to do there in order for the car to be made.

Anchor Paper 6**Score Point: 2**

This response focuses on cooperation and there is evidence of organization (factories have lines, everyone does their job, cars can't be made). Content is underdeveloped. More elaboration is required for a higher score.

This one time my sister wanted a tree house. So I had to cooperate to get it done and i had to help my mom and dad (step). So me my mom and my step dad had gone to home depot and get the supplies. I had to find the nails and wood and couple of hammers. So i didn't feel like it and my man said if i didn't cooperate i'll get grounded. So i had to and when we all got done making the tree house my sister was really happy.

Anchor Paper 7**Score Point: 3**

This brief response is somewhat focused on the idea of building a tree house. There is evidence of organization in the sequence of events (went to Home Depot, got supplies, finished the tree house, sister was happy) but it is not always effective (if I didn't cooperate I'd get grounded). Details lack elaboration. Transitions are weak and vocabulary is basic.

Cooperation is necessary to survival because if you can't cooperate with others then you'll have a lot of trouble in life.

Most jobs involve other people than your self. But if you can not cooperate with the other employees then you'll probably get fired and you need a job to survive.

Also you will never get married if you can't cooperate with others because marriage is all about cooperating with your husband or wife to have a successful life together.

You might also have trouble in school because you can't cooperate with other students so you would probably get in trouble a lot. But also your teachers if you can't cooperate with your teachers then they can't do their jobs and help you learn. And you need an education to survive.

Then there is your family, if you've had a hard day and your parents want to help you out but you can't cooperate with others then your going to be stuck feeling bad because your not letting your family in to try to understand your situation. And I don't know about you but if I couldn't cooperate with my parents my life would be a lot harder.

You need your family to survive.
That is why I think cooperation is necessary
to survival.

Anchor Paper 8**Score Point: 3**

This somewhat clear and focused response has only limited development of content. The writer provides a list of examples of where cooperation is needed (jobs, marriage, school, family) but supporting details lack elaboration. Organization is ineffective; transitions are weak and ideas do not progress logically.

There are many times and places in life when cooperation among people or countries is helpful. Cooperation happens everyday and no matter who you are or where you live you have to cooperate with someone. Take the USA, for example, there has recently been a rise of demand for rice. The leading supplier of rice is china. In china the people there have ~~started to rise the demand for Angus beef~~. Now the USA and China haven't been getting along all that great recently but they both see what their countries want and they say hey we have rice and you have angus beef. We want angus beef and you want rice, lets cooperate with each other so you get what you want and we get what we want. So China and the USA get along and cooperate to get what the people want. In away this was necessary for The USA and China's economy survival. So in away being able to cooperate is more important than some would think but it happens everyday. That why I think there are many times and places in life when cooperation is helpful.

Anchor Paper 9
Score Point: 3

This somewhat clear and focused response provides partially successful support for a single idea (rice for beef). Repetitive organization and insufficient elaboration prevent a higher score.

Softball my alltime favorite Sport!
I'm on the ~~team~~ ^{camp} (a detroit team)
and I liked it. many people on the team
were nice and they were good
players. The Coach was awesome
Coach and coach. We
practiced all the time and we were
great. So at are first game, well
lets just say we were nervous
and we got mercyed
So we all practiced harder
but we just fell apart are coaches
said, "you guys need to cooperate
with each other!" and when we did
we did much better. When it came
to more games we won a few
but we were still the losing team,
Are coaches knew we could do
better so they signed us up for
a "little" raffle/game and it was
a game we would play for money
for
We worked hard for the day

to come and when it came we were all pumped up, and I was the pitcher for the game (fast pitch). When I warmed up I was worried the ball just went to high. So one of my friends came and told me, "don't worry we will back you up we are a team we will cooperate with what ever you through." So when the first person came up to bat I did great I struck them out we won the game and we earned \$864 for . I think we won because everyone then understood what cooperation was and that cooperating helps you out sometimes so I believe we helped that school because we cooperated!

Anchor Paper 10

Score Point: 3

This longer response is somewhat focused on a single idea (cooperating to improve a softball team). Development is partially successful; details support the central theme and are organized in a logical progression despite ineffective transitions.

One day my friends, were out
 the barn with me we see the dog, Daisy, carrying
 the new kitten, in her mouth. and get
 the kitten out of Daisy's mouth. I ran to get
 a towel on had to cooperate to get the
 kitten out of her mouth. and I are the
 better riders, so we saddled on our horses and rode
 to grandmas house (only across the field) far to
 to get a bottle of warm milk while I held the
 horses. We had to cooperate to get the milk and hold the
 horses. When we got back had the kitten dried off
 and warm. and I took off the saddles
 and cooled the horses down. and I cooperated
 with each other to get the saddles off. We took
 shifts on watching the kitten until Marlin, the man
 of the kittens got back. We showed a lot
 of cooperation when we had to switch on and
 off watching the kitten. Finally, Marlin, got
 back, probably from hunting mice in the hay
 field. Overall my friends and I showed
 cooperation that day. We had to show cooperation
 to save the kitten. We were happy we worked
 together so well.

Anchor Paper 11

Score Point: 4

This response is generally clear and focused on a central idea (cooperating to save a kitten) and is developed with relevant details. Each person's task is briefly but clearly described step-by-step. Organization is generally coherent although there is some shifting from the central theme (cooling the horses, removing the saddles). Lack of sentence variety does not detract from the response.

Cooperation is vital for success. At least, that's what I learned playing on a basketball team. Everyone must work together to win the game.

There's the tall center blocking shots, and the swift and nimble point guard putting points on the board. Without all these parts the team can't function properly.

I remember one time during one game my team played we were not cooperating. The point guard wouldn't pass, we were blaming other people for our mistakes and we were losing the game because of it.

It was late in the fourth quarter and it looked bleak. We were down by quite a few points. Then something happened. Our coach called a

time out and told us what we were doing wrong. He told us to cooperate more if we wanted to win the game.

AFTER that we started playing great. Shots were made by all the members of the team. Every one got the ball and we started looking good all around.

We ended up winning the game. All beca we were cooperation.

Anchor Paper 12**Score Point: 4**

This generally clear response maintains a single focus (cooperating to win a basketball game) and the ideas and content are relevant. The response is coherent and progresses logically. More elaboration is required for a higher score.

A time my friends and I cooperated was when we all got together and built a fort. There were going to be two forts built so we can have wars. Me, and have to build a fort that will be unstoppable.

We started to build a fort, and we had a time limit to build our forts in 2 hours. "Alright guys," I said, "Let's build." I started my watch and started to work. We had to use team work to get the fort to be stable. I saw a black tube laying on the ground up ahead. Then I noticed it was a tie. "Gamin!" I see a tie ahead, I bet we can use that for a storage room. That's when we all got together and had to make a plan.

"Alright!" I yelled. We have to each have a certain job to get this fort on the move. "You work on the storage room, you'll need that tie and bricks. You work on the frame of the fort so it's sturdy, and for me, I'll dig our dugout to

hide in incase of an ambush." "Break!" We were off to working on our jobs. I probably had the hardest job because of all the roots I had to chop up and get out of the way. We have 1 hour left!" I answered. "Alright." Said. I got the frame of the fort sturdy with big branches, and I got the storage room done." Said. 30 minutes left!" Alright guys, we have one more job to do, and that's put big sticks, branches, and logs on top for our roof. We had to cooperate well this time. "5 minutes left!" "There!" "Finished!" "Times up!" Everyone got there fort mostly done. We didn't have a door. They didn't have much of a roof. "Let the battle begin!"

Anchor Paper 13

Score Point: 4

This generally clear response maintains a single focus (cooperating to build a fort) and the ideas and content are relevant and coherent. Details are developed as an elaborated list of tasks and follow a logical progression. Effective use of dialogue supports meaning. More elaboration is required for a higher score.

On a clear Saturday morning, three men wash ashore of a deserted island. They look like sailors and, indeed, they are. Their boat has sunk and now, after many days floating in the sea with no food, they are exhausted. But for now they must find food.

The three men stumble to their feet and walk as best possible into the woods on the left side of the island. They are looking for fruit trees, vegetables, anything to eat. After about five minutes one man, named John, gives a cry of delight. "Larry, Sean!" he says, "Look! There's apple trees and potatoes, and carrots!" "And over there, there are berries," says Sean. Larry then states a problem. "How are we going to carry them?" They all ponder this for a moment and then John says, "I know. We'll carry potatoes and apples in your scarf, Sean, and berries in our pockets, and perhaps one apple and one potato in each of our handkerchiefs." So they all boosted each other up into apple trees, bent down and picked berries, and knelt to pull up potatoes. After that, laden down with food and refreshed with excitement they continued on to find a stream and a clearing where they could eat and drink.

After eating they decided to each go a different way and explore. When they finished searching their area they would meet back at the clearing. So, John went forward, Larry went left, and Sean went to the right. Once they were back together they told what they had found. John had found a trail that led to a ruin of a house, half of which was still intact. Larry found corn and a horse (which seemed half tamed). Sean found five cows and six chickens. Pleased with their success, they proceeded to the house ruin that John had found. Going into the house they found it had no roof but it had tools, two bedrooms, and a kitchen. Larry, who had worked in their boat's kitchen, picked corn and ground it up. Sean found a pail, milked the cows and got eggs. John, finding a saw, went to get some wood for a fire. Larry mixed up the corn with egg yolks and milk, then shook up some of the milk to make butter. He mixed in the butter while Sean made a fire, and put the bowl on a stand above the fire to cook.

Their life went on like this for four more years with them working together to survive before a boat came by. They flagged down the boat as you would a taxi and happily went home to Spain for a much easier life.

Anchor Paper 14

Score Point: 5

This clear, focused response is well developed with a variety of relevant details that describe a cooperative effort to survive on a desert island. Control over organization maintains the connections between the myriad ideas and provides fluency. Precise word choices (laden down with food, refreshed with excitement, flagged down a boat as you would a taxi) enhances the response.

A county wide water conservation effort has gone... John turned the radio off. There had been a severe rain drought for a month or two. John didn't want to hear about it anymore. He had enough problems to worry about. His farm wouldn't last much longer if it didn't rain soon. His crops were turning to dust.

Far down the country road in front of his farm house a blue car came speeding along, kicking up clouds of dust behind it. Little did the driver know that all it took was one little spark to shoot out from the bowels of the engine, barely noticeable to human eyes, but ignites the grass.

The first thing John noticed was a small sparkling light by the road. He ran out to find that a brush fire had begun. He frantically ran to and from his house with pails of water to try and douse the flame, but it was hopeless. It was spreading too fast.

He ran inside the house to call the fire department. No, he thought, by the time they get here it will be too late. He called all his

neighbors and told them to come quickly with buckets.

In ten minutes they were all here and the fire had grown. They quickly formed a line from John's front to the fire. Bucket by bucket they filled them up and passed them down the line, and then released their contents over the flames. They formed a circle of wet grass around the fire so it wouldn't spread so fast and then worked from the inside out.

It took a good hour and a half but they finally reduced the crackling flames to a pile of soggy ashes. Because of their teamwork they converted a potential crisis into a mere nuisance. And without John's neighbors to help it could have easily turned into something a few pails of water couldn't fix.

Anchor Paper 15

Score Point: 5

This clear, focused response is well developed with relevant details that describe extinguishing a brush fire. Effective organization maintains the connections and vivid word choice (crops turn to dust, bowels of the engine, ignite the grass, crackling flames to a pile of soggy ashes, potential crisis into a mere nuisance) enhance the response and demonstrate a command of the language.

Cooperation is a simple word that means to obey. If you don't do it, it can mean missing out on going to a friend's house. This is exactly what happened to me last Friday, when I chose NOT to obey. This turned out to be a terrible mistake.

Like I said, it was last Friday. The whole week, my mom had been bugging me to clean my room. As I always, I told her I'd do it later, but it seemed as if later never came. I was putting it off, which I deeply regretted when later eventually did come.

During lunch, my friend invited me to her house after school. All we could talk about was how fun it was going to be, and all things we were going to do. Playing Monopoly, making cookies, flirting with the cute boy across the street. I was so excited that I was watching the clock the whole hour, for each and every class. I could hardly wait, because I knew it was going to be a blast. I'm sure my mom would let me; she always does. Or so I thought.

Finally, after all the anticipation, I was at my house packing my bag. I had just finished, when my mom entered the room. She eyed the clothes scattered across the floor, the clutter all over the desk, and my

unmade bed. Then she stared right into my eyes. My heart sank, for I knew I wasn't going to house.

After I apologized for disobeying, my mom made call and tell her I couldn't come because I'd forgotten to clean my room. Then she forced me to clean my room for at LEAST half an hour. I wasn't about to talk back though, I'd already gotten myself into enough trouble. I still angry though. I was supposed to be eating cookie dough right now, but instead I was hauling dirty clothes to the laundry room. All I could think about was why I hadn't just cooperated the first time.

Although I was still angry at my mom, I learned that it's extremely important to cooperate. If you don't, you'll regret it, especially after you've suffered the consequences. I learned this the hard way, but after it was over, I considered it a gained experience. An experience I'll remember for the rest of my life.

Anchor Paper 16

Score Point: 6

This exceptionally clear and focused response presents thoroughly developed details with clarity and connections between ideas progress smoothly and logically. The writer vividly develops the anticipation of an evening with her friend (the activities, the clock-watching, the blast they would have). Then, with equal precision, describes the anger and disappointment, a consequence of not cooperating/obeying (hauling dirty laundry instead of eating cookie dough). Tight control over language and mastery of syntax and mechanics enhance the response and indicate a mature command of the language.