Writer’s Reference Sheet
Grade 8

Focusing

· Read the prompt and, if provided, the passage(s).
· Think about what the prompt is asking you to do.
· Think about key issues in the passage, if provided, that will help you fulfill the purpose of writing your response.

Pre-writing

· Think about your audience and purpose for writing.
· Use a pre-writing technique (e.g., brainstorming, webbing, drawing, outlining) to plan your response.
· Think of your thesis statement and supporting details.

Drafting

· Type your response in the text box provided.

Reviewing

· Reread your response to correct any errors that interfere with your ability to communicate your ideas to the audience.

If I am writing an argument, did I

· introduce a claim?
· acknowledge and distinguish the claim from counterclaims (alternate or opposing claims)?
· anticipate audience’s knowledge and concerns?
· provide relevant background information from the reading passage (if a passage is provided)?
· maintain a clear focus?
· support claims with logical reasoning and relevant evidence (facts, details and examples)?
· use words and phrases to clarify the relationship among claims, counterclaims, reasons, and evidence?