Conventions

Grade 8

3.3.2   Spells accurately in final draft.
- Uses spelling rules and patterns from previous grades.
- Uses multiple strategies to spell.
     Examples:
     - homophones (e.g., *capital* and *capitol*)
     - affixes (e.g., *dis-, ir-, -ist -ism*)
     - Greek and Latin roots (e.g., *circus, spiral, vision*)
     - words from other languages (e.g., *arena, buffet, souffle, lariat*)
     - frequently misspelled words (e.g., *accommodation, cemetery, receive*)
- Uses resources to correct own spelling.

3.3.3   Applies capitalization rules.
- Uses capitalization rules from previous grades.
- Capitalizes the title of a specific course (e.g., History 9A as opposed to history).
- Uses resources to check capitalization.

3.3.4   Applies punctuation rules.
- Uses punctuation rules from previous grades.
- Uses commas to enclose titles (e.g., Mohammed Abdul, M.D., is a pediatrician.).
- Uses commas for emphasis or clarity (e.g., What the cook does, does affect the meal.).
- Places commas and periods inside quotation marks.
- Uses apostrophes to form plurals of letters or numbers (e.g., Know your ABC's.).
- Uses apostrophes in possessive compound nouns (e.g., the mother-in-law's birthday).
- Uses a colon between title and subtitle (e.g., *Write Source 2000: A Guide to Thinking, Writing and Learning*).
- Uses diagonal slash (/) correctly:
     - in a fraction
     - to show choice
- Uses resources to check punctuation.

3.3.5 Applies usage rules.
- Applies usage rules from previous grades.
- Identifies and corrects past grammar and usage issues.
- Uses *fewer* vs. *less* correctly.
- Uses parallel construction when listing infinitive phrases.
  - parallel: Jamillah likes to hike, swim, and ride a bicycle.
  - not parallel: Jamillah likes to hike, to swim, and rides a bicycle.
- Uses resources to check usage.

3.3.6 Uses complete sentences in writing.
- May use fragments in dialogue as appropriate.

3.3.7 Applies paragraph conventions.
- Uses paragraph conventions (e.g., designate by indentation or block format, skipping lines between paragraphs).
- Uses textual markers (e.g., rows, columns, tables).

3.3.8 Applies conventional forms for citations.
- Cites sources according to prescribed format (e.g., MLA, APA).