

FAQ Updates July 2026

Q: Why are foundational written language skills, such as letter formation and spelling, included in the Language domain instead of the Writing domain?

A: The Writing domain focuses on composing meaning, while the Language domain focuses on the tools and conventions that make that writing possible. These standards separate the skill of expressing ideas in writing from the knowledge of how the English language works.

The Language domain focuses on the conventions and structures of English, including spelling, punctuation, grammar, syntax, usage, and vocabulary. It also includes foundational written language skills such as forming letters and producing written sentences. The Writing domain expects students to use these skills when they write, revise, and share their ideas.

This approach matches major learning standards, including the Common Core State Standards. Those standards place grammar, spelling, punctuation, and other language rules in the Language domain. Students are then expected to use those skills when they complete writing activities.

