



# INFORMATIONAL WRITING CHECK-IN

**Directions:** Read the two texts and respond to the prompt that follows.

## Text 1

A hurricane is a dangerous storm. This type of strong storm has high winds. It can bring a large amount of rain. Hurricanes are dangerous because they are very large storms. They cover a wide area as they move.

There are steps to take before a hurricane hits. It is important to watch the news and have a plan. Before a hurricane hits, board up windows. Bring in outside pets and furniture. Create a supply kit with first aid equipment, food, and water. Flashlights and batteries are good supplies to have in a hurricane. The high winds in hurricanes sometimes make the power go out. These are helpful tools when there is no electricity.

During hurricanes, it is important to stay inside. Stay away from windows. If there are warnings to evacuate, or leave your home because of danger, follow the directions.

After the hurricane, stay inside until it is safe to go outside. Check on neighbors to see if anyone is hurt. Stay with the adults in charge who can tell you what is safe. They will tell you how to help.

Hurricanes are dangerous storms because they are large and sometimes slow-moving. There are important steps to take to prepare and to be safe during and after the storm. It is important to be aware and ready.

## Text 2



There have been many devastating hurricanes to hit the United States. These hurricanes are famous in a bad way. They have been large disasters.

Hurricane Katrina was a deadly storm in 2005. It hit New Orleans, Louisiana. The storm was stronger than anyone thought it would be. The lakes around New Orleans had too much water, and it flooded homes. The damage was so expensive. Many people lost their homes. Many people lost their lives.

Hurricane Sandy was a large storm that hit in 2012. It hit New Jersey and the New York City area. Many other states were affected by the storm, but the worst damage was in the northeast. Streets and subways flooded. Many businesses and homes were destroyed.

Hurricane Harvey was a destructive hurricane that hit the Houston, Texas, area in 2017. It moved very slowly, so it stayed in one area for a long time. The powerful storm rained over 50 inches. It flooded the city and many small towns. Thousands of people had to be rescued out of their homes.

Many hurricanes do not bring as much damage as these hurricanes did. Hurricane Katrina, Hurricane Sandy, and Hurricane Harvey are just a few of the most notable ones in the United States.

### Prompt:

**Hurricanes are large storms that can cause widespread destruction. Write an informational essay that tells why it is important to take hurricane warnings seriously. Use examples from the passage in your explanation.**

**Your writing will be scored based on the development of ideas, organization of writing, and language conventions of grammar, word choice, and mechanics.**



Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_



# WRITING RUBRIC - 3RD GRADE



	4	3	2	1
Development and Organization	<p>The writing:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• fully addresses the prompt</li> <li>• is at least a paragraph that includes a clear introduction</li> <li>• includes strong supporting details or evidence from the passage that is on-topic</li> <li>• includes a clear conclusion</li> </ul>	<p>The writing:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• mostly addresses the prompt</li> <li>• is a paragraph that includes an introduction</li> <li>• includes adequate supporting details or evidence from the passage that is on-topic</li> <li>• includes a conclusion</li> </ul>	<p>The writing:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• somewhat addresses the prompt</li> <li>• is a paragraph that includes an introduction</li> <li>• includes some supporting details or evidence from the passage that is on-topic</li> <li>• includes a conclusion</li> </ul>	<p>The writing:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• does not address the prompt</li> <li>• is a paragraph that does not include an introduction</li> <li>• lacks supporting details or evidence from the passage</li> <li>• lacks a conclusion</li> </ul>
Language Conventions	<p>The writing:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• demonstrates strong usage of grade-level conventions</li> <li>• uses a variety of linking words and phrases</li> <li>• contains few, if any, grammatical errors</li> <li>• contains few, if any, spelling errors</li> <li>• contains few, if any, capitalization errors</li> <li>• contains few, if any, punctuation errors</li> <li>• is clear and easy to understand</li> </ul>	<p>The writing:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• demonstrates good usage of grade-level conventions</li> <li>• uses linking words and phrases</li> <li>• contains few grammatical errors</li> <li>• contains few spelling errors</li> <li>• contains few capitalization errors</li> <li>• contains few punctuation errors</li> <li>• is able to be understood</li> </ul>	<p>The writing:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• demonstrates below-average usage of grade-level conventions</li> <li>• uses basic linking words and phrases</li> <li>• contains many grammatical errors</li> <li>• contains many spelling errors</li> <li>• contains many capitalization errors</li> <li>• contains many punctuation errors</li> <li>• is difficult to understand</li> </ul>	<p>The writing:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• demonstrates poor usage of grade-level conventions</li> <li>• uses few, if any, linking words and phrases</li> <li>• contains numerous grammatical errors</li> <li>• contains numerous spelling errors</li> <li>• contains numerous capitalization errors</li> <li>• contains numerous punctuation errors</li> <li>• is almost impossible to understand</li> </ul>