

6 Traits of Writing

IDEAS AND CONTENT: Is the writing clear, focused, and interesting? Do main ideas stand out with good support?

What this looks like: Writing has strong, developed main ideas, relevant, rich supporting details. Writing is exceptionally clear throughout and holds the reader's attention throughout.

ORGANIZATION: Does organization enhance the central idea? Is the piece sequential? Does it have a strong beginning, middle, and end? Are there effective transitions?

What this looks like: The organization enhances the central idea and its development. Written work has a strong, inviting beginning and strong, satisfying closure. Smooth, effective transitions and sequencing are noted in the work. The order and structure are compelling.

VOICE: Does the topic come to life? Does the writing convey feelings, convictions, and personality? Does the writing make you feel something?

What this looks like: Writing demonstrates an exceptional sense of audience, topic, and purpose. It is engaging, original and appropriate to the task. The author communicates a deep commitment to the topic.

WORD CHOICE: Do the words convey the intended message? Are the words interesting, precise, & natural? Are they carefully chosen & placed for impact?

What this looks like: Message is conveyed in an exceptionally interesting, precise and yet natural way. Expression is original with rich, deep, powerful range of words.

SENTENCE FLUENCY: Does the writing have an effective flow & rhythm? Are the sentences strong, w/ varied structures that make reading easy & enjoyable?

What this looks like: Writer uses extensive variation in sentence structure, which flows and has rhythm. Sentence structure is used to draw attention to key ideas. Writer demonstrates strong control.

CONVENTIONS: Does the writing demonstrate control over punctuation, spelling, and grammar?

What this looks like: Writer demonstrates exceptional control over conventions. There are no noticeable errors in grammar, punctuation or spelling. There is very little or no need for editing.