

Six Traits Writing Rubric

	Established (5)	Effective (4)	Exploring (3)	Emerging (2)
Ideas	There is one clear, well-focused topic. Main idea stands out and is supported by detailed information.	Main idea is clear, the supporting information is general	Main idea is somewhat clear, but there needs for more supporting information	The main idea is not clear. There is seemingly a random collection of information.
Organization	Details are placed in a logical order. They are presented effectively and move the reader easily through the piece.	Details are placed in a logical order. The writing is easy to follow.	Details are not in a logical order. The reader gets distracted.	There is little sense that the writing is organized. The reader is confused.
Voice	The writer shows knowledge or experience. There is a definite personality to the writing that connects with the reader.	The writer speaks directly to the reader. The writing is expressive and engaging.	The writing is sincere but not compelling. There are attempts to connect to the reader.	The writer fails to connect with the reader. There is no sense of the writer.
Word Choice	The writer uses vivid words and phrases that linger or draw pictures in the reader's mind. The choice and placement of words seem accurate, natural and not forced.	The writer uses words and phrases that engage the reader. Occasionally the words seem overdone, forced, or repetitive.	The writer uses words that communicate clearly, but the writing lacks variety, punch, or flair.	The writer uses a limited vocabulary that neither communicates strongly nor captures the reader's interest.
Sentence Fluency	All sentences sound natural and are delightful to read aloud. Sentences are clear and vary in style, structure and length.	Sentences vary in style, structure and length. The writing sounds interesting when read aloud.	Sentences are routine and similarly constructed. Some variety is attempted.	Sentences are choppy, incomplete, or awkward. Sentences are similar in structure and length.
Conventions	The writer makes no errors in spelling, grammar, punctuation, capitalization, or paragraphing.	The writer makes a few errors in spelling, grammar punctuation, capitalization, and paragraphing, but they do not distract the reader.	The writer makes a few errors in spelling, grammar punctuation, capitalization, and paragraphing that distract the reader.	There are frequent errors in spelling, grammar punctuation, capitalization, and paragraphing that distract the reader and make text difficult to read.