

# Six-Trait Writing Rubric

CONTENT/IDEAS	ORGANIZATION	VOICE
<p><b>5 The paper is clearly focused and well developed.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The thesis is clear, concise, and sophisticated.</li><li>• Specific and integrated details support the thesis.</li><li>• Ideas are innovative or insightful.</li></ul>	<p><b>5 The order and structure move the reader through the text easily.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• An interesting introduction draws the reader into the paper, and a satisfying conclusion leaves the reader with a sense of resolution.</li><li>• Smooth, effective transitions exist between paragraphs and between ideas within paragraphs.</li><li>• Organizational patterns are effective and unobtrusive.</li></ul>	<p><b>5 The writer's energy and passion for the subject drive the writing.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Clearly, the writing belongs to this writer and no other.</li><li>• The text is lively, expressive, and engaging.</li><li>• The tone and flavor of the piece fit the topic, purpose, and audience well.</li></ul>
<p><b>3 The paper has a general sense of purpose and adequate development.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The thesis is present; however, it may be too broad, predictable, or without focus.</li><li>• Details support the thesis but may be general, insufficient in number, inaccurate, excessive, or extraneous.</li><li>• Ideas are obvious.</li></ul>	<p><b>3 The order and structure do not readily move the reader through the text.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The introduction and conclusion are present.</li><li>• Transitions are present but may be commonplace, inappropriate, or excessive.</li><li>• Organizational patterns are present but predictable.</li></ul>	<p><b>3 The writer seems sincere and willing to communicate with the reader on a functional, if somewhat distant, level.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The writer has not quite found his or her voice but is experimenting. Moments here and there amuse, surprise, or move the reader.</li><li>• The writer holds individuality and passion is check.</li><li>• Though aware of an audience, the writer only occasionally speaks directly to that audience or invites the audience "in."</li></ul>
<p><b>1 The paper has a limited sense of purpose and no development.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The thesis is without direction or non-existent.</li><li>• Details are limited or nonexistent; support for the thesis is minimal.</li><li>• Ideas are trite.</li></ul>	<p><b>1 Organization neither supports nor develops the thesis. The lack of order and structure detract from the reader's understanding.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The introduction and conclusion are not present.</li><li>• Transitions are nonexistent.</li><li>• Organizational patterns are hazardous, disjointed, or nonexistent.</li></ul>	<p><b>1 The writer seems distanced from the topic, the audience, or both.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The writer does not personalize the paper.</li><li>• The writing takes no risks and does not involve or move the reader.</li><li>• The writer does not reach out to the audience or anticipate its interests and needs.</li></ul>

## WORD CHOICE

## SENTENCE FLUENCY

## CONVENTIONS

### 5 The language is rich and natural.

- Words are specific and well chosen.
- Imagery is strong.
- Powerful verbs provide energy for the paper.
- Expression is fresh and appealing.

### 5 The writing has a natural flow and rhythm.

- Varied sentence structure and length demonstrate conscious planning.
- The sentences are rhythmic and graceful.

### (GRAMMAR, SPELLING, PUNCTUATION, CAPITALIZATION, AND MECHANICS)

### 5 The writer demonstrates strong control of standard writing conventions through a variety of sentence structures. Few errors exist.

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### 3 The language is functional.

- Words are generally correct and appropriate.
- Imagery is relevant to the content but limited.
- Powerful verbs are occasionally present.
- Expression is clear but clichés and redundancy may exist.

### 3 The writing moves efficiently.

- The writer shows adequate control over simple sentence structure but less control over complex sentences.
- The sentence rhythm is attempted but inconsistent.

### 3 The writer shows reasonable control over a limited range of standard writing conventions. Errors distract from the quality of the paper.

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### 1 The language is awkward and unclear.

- Words are incorrect or inappropriate.
- No imagery exists.
- No powerful verbs are used; linking verbs (is, are, was) dominate.
- The writer uses a limited vocabulary; jargon, or slang.

### 1 The writing moves awkwardly.

- The sentences tend to be choppy or rambling.
- The sentence rhythm is clumsy and jarring.

### 1 The writer demonstrates limited control of standard writing conventions. Errors are serious, varied, and excessive.

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