

Revised 6 Trait Writing Rubric

April 2009

	IDEAS	ORGANIZATION	VOICE
6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Clear & focused on topic; holds reader's attention <input type="checkbox"/> Striking insight; in depth understanding of topic <input type="checkbox"/> Takes reader on a journey of understanding <input type="checkbox"/> Satisfyingly rich with significant, intriguing details 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Thoughtful structure guides reader through text <input type="checkbox"/> Structure enhances reader understanding, enjoyment <input type="checkbox"/> Unforgettable opening and conclusion <input type="checkbox"/> Satisfying, well crafted transitions 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Tone enhances the meaning of the writing <input type="checkbox"/> Writer wants reader to share this <input type="checkbox"/> Voice is as individual as footprints; tough to put down <input type="checkbox"/> You want to read this out loud to others!
5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Clear and focused on topic throughout the piece <input type="checkbox"/> Strong main idea or story line <input type="checkbox"/> Authentic, convincing; based on research or experience <input type="checkbox"/> Main idea expanded & supported by details & evidence 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Order is perfect for topic and purpose <input type="checkbox"/> Structure is smooth & works well with topic <input type="checkbox"/> Strong lead & conclusion <input type="checkbox"/> Strong, thoughtful transitions 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Tone is well suited to topic, audience & purpose <input type="checkbox"/> Writer consistently reaches out to the reader <input type="checkbox"/> Voice is enthusiastic, engaging, lively and expressive <input type="checkbox"/> You want to read this more than once
4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Clear and focused most of the time <input type="checkbox"/> Can identify main topic or story line <input type="checkbox"/> Quality details outweighs filler & general statements 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Order works; reader never feels lost <input type="checkbox"/> Structure supports topic <input type="checkbox"/> Lead and conclusion work <input type="checkbox"/> Transitions present and usually helpful 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Tone acceptable for topic, audience & purpose <input type="checkbox"/> Writer has some strong moments that grab the reader <input type="checkbox"/> Writer's voice has some sparkle <input type="checkbox"/> You enjoyed this piece of writing
3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Parts of the writing don't stick to the topic <input type="checkbox"/> Main concept or story line not at all clear <input type="checkbox"/> Filler & general statements outweigh quality details 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Some out of place information needs to be reordered <input type="checkbox"/> Structure not clear in all places – need to re-read to follow thoughts or story line <input type="checkbox"/> Lead and conclusion attempted but need work <input type="checkbox"/> Transitions unclear or confusing 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Tone doesn't fit topic or audience or purpose <input type="checkbox"/> Writer doesn't make the reader want to keep reading <input type="checkbox"/> Voice is polite but not interesting <input type="checkbox"/> You probably won't remember this writing
2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Just a hint of a topic or story line – just a glimmer <input type="checkbox"/> Mostly fuzzy, confusing and loosely focused <input type="checkbox"/> Facts and tidbits wander in search of a main idea 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Hard to follow; need to reorder ideas <input type="checkbox"/> Even re-reading doesn't clear up confusion <input type="checkbox"/> Either lead or conclusion is missing <input type="checkbox"/> Transitions unclear or missing 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Tone is inappropriate for audience, purpose and topic <input type="checkbox"/> Writer doesn't talk directly to reader <input type="checkbox"/> Writer is hardly involved in topic <input type="checkbox"/> Voice is boring or dull
1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Notes and random thoughts hastily put together <input type="checkbox"/> Reader can only guess at the meaning <input type="checkbox"/> Main idea unknown even to the writer 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Unconnected list of details and events <input type="checkbox"/> No big picture; nothing goes with anything else <input type="checkbox"/> No lead or conclusion – just begins and stops <input type="checkbox"/> No transition words or phrases 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> No tone – voice is hard to find or describe <input type="checkbox"/> Writer doesn't care about having a reader <input type="checkbox"/> Writer doesn't seem to care about the topic <input type="checkbox"/> Once you put it down, you won't pick it up again

	WORD CHOICE	SENTENCE FLUENCY	CONVENTIONS
6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Powerful, stunning verbs <input type="checkbox"/> Descriptive words are original and delightful <input type="checkbox"/> Everyday words used in original ways <input type="checkbox"/> Quotable in spots – you wish you’d written it 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Sentences have a smooth flow and pleasant rhythm <input type="checkbox"/> Virtually every sentence begins differently <input type="checkbox"/> Sentences are almost musical and very creative <input type="checkbox"/> Informational writing crisp and to the point <input type="checkbox"/> Skims, sings, dances along like a lively script <input type="checkbox"/> Highly readable; a joy to share aloud 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Ready to publish <input type="checkbox"/> Does not make spelling errors <input type="checkbox"/> Capital letters in unusual words is correct <input type="checkbox"/> Few usage errors: uses advanced conventions
5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Lively, appealing verbs <input type="checkbox"/> Descriptive words are precise and vivid <input type="checkbox"/> Word choices add to meaning <input type="checkbox"/> Striking, fresh phrases 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Sentences are easy to read with inflection <input type="checkbox"/> Purposeful sentence beginnings <input type="checkbox"/> Much variety in sentence length and structure <input type="checkbox"/> You have to hear it to appreciate it 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Just touch up minor errors before publishing <input type="checkbox"/> Spelling is correct except for very unusual words <input type="checkbox"/> Capital letters in proper nouns is correct <input type="checkbox"/> Uses commas, apostrophes correctly
4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Some strong verbs – we’d like more <input type="checkbox"/> Some descriptive words are clear or sparkle <input type="checkbox"/> Words are used correctly <input type="checkbox"/> Some originality mixed with slang or generalities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Sentences have natural, pleasant phrasing <input type="checkbox"/> Sentence beginnings rarely repeat <input type="checkbox"/> Some variety in length and structure <input type="checkbox"/> Few awkward moments 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Just needs a good once-over before publishing <input type="checkbox"/> Noticeable minor errors don’t change meaning <input type="checkbox"/> Some spelling errors on more difficult words <input type="checkbox"/> Basics in capitals and all end punctuation are OK
3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Verbs lack power <input type="checkbox"/> Descriptive words are vague or flat <input type="checkbox"/> Some word choices incorrect or awkward <input type="checkbox"/> Now and then a “gem” word amidst agates 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Sentences are readable but mechanical <input type="checkbox"/> Same sentence beginnings often <input type="checkbox"/> Sentences are gangly- tangly long or choppy and short <input type="checkbox"/> Lots of awkward phrasing 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Need to carefully edit whole paper for publishing <input type="checkbox"/> Noticeable, distracting errors may affect meaning <input type="checkbox"/> Spelling of words at grade level is incorrect <input type="checkbox"/> Some errors on basics:capitals & end punctuation <input type="checkbox"/> Usage errors in verb tenses
2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Same verbs used with annoying repetition <input type="checkbox"/> Descriptive words are dull or weak or over used <input type="checkbox"/> Words used incorrectly or repeat too much <input type="checkbox"/> An under written piece 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Sentences are incomplete or run-ons <input type="checkbox"/> You can’t always tell where the sentence starts <input type="checkbox"/> You need to rehearse it to read this one aloud 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Need to edit line by line for publishing <input type="checkbox"/> Frequent errors interfere with reading the text <input type="checkbox"/> Spelling of basic words is a problem <input type="checkbox"/> Many errors on capital letters & end punctuation <input type="checkbox"/> Usage errors in subject-verb agreement
1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Verbs seem to be chosen at random <input type="checkbox"/> Descriptive words don’t fit <input type="checkbox"/> Meaning unclear <input type="checkbox"/> What is the writer trying to say? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> These are not sentences <input type="checkbox"/> Sentences do not always make sense <input type="checkbox"/> Very hard to read aloud 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Need to edit word by word for publishing <input type="checkbox"/> Serious frequent errors make reading almost impossible <input type="checkbox"/> Spelling of words is phonetic <input type="checkbox"/> Almost no capital letters or end punctuation