

Six-Point Writing Rubric

	1 EXPERIMENTING	2 EMERGING	3 DEVELOPING	4 EFFECTIVE	5 STRONG	6 EXCEPTIONAL
Ideas: The meaning and development of the message	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Searching for a topic Limited information Vague details Random thoughts 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hints at topic Reader left with many unanswered questions Sporadic details Glimmer of main point 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> General topic defined Reasonably clear ideas Details present but not precise Shows some specifics 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Topic fairly narrowed New ways of thinking about topic attempted Credible details with some support Writer understands topic 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Narrow and manageable topic Clear and focused; answers readers' questions Relevant, accurate details enrich theme Shows insight into topic 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Unique treatment of topic IN-depth understanding of topic Unusual details go beyond the obvious Makes connections, shares insights effectively
Organization: The internal structure of the piece	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No lead or conclusion Sequencing not present No awareness of pacing Hard to follow 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ineffective lead and conclusion Some sequencing apparent Pacing awkward Some attempt at structure 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Routine lead and conclusion More logical sequencing Pacing generally under control Common structures detract from content 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Effective lead and conclusion Sequencing works well Well controlled pacing Common structures have smooth flow 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Inviting introduction and satisfying conclusion Effective sequencing Pacing is creative Structure begins to reveal theme 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Introduction and conclusion are unique and connected Masterful sequencing Artful pacing used for stylistic effect Structure showcases central ideas or theme
Voice: The way the writer brings the topic to life	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No concern for audience Lifeless and mechanical Flat or inappropriate Purpose not present 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Occasionally aware of audience General statements require reader interpretation Tries to engage Hints at purpose 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Writer begins to connect with the reader Pleasing, yet safe Writer/reader connection fades in and out Purpose inconsistent 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Writer occasionally intrigues the reader Pleasing; takes risks Engages reader most of the time Purpose consistent 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Interesting and informative Takes effective risks Reflects interest and commitment topic Purpose shows clarity and understanding 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Compelling and engaging Writer goes out on a limb Displays ownership of topic Powerful purpose shows commitment
Word choice: The specific vocabulary the writers uses to convey meaning	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Vocabulary is limited Simple words used incorrectly No figurative language Words do not convey meaning 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Generally correct words, but no spice Language is functional Attempts use of interesting words Words convey general meaning 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Some active verbs and precise nouns A moment or two of sparkle Experiments with figurative language Words begin to embrace meaning 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Effective and creative verbs and nouns Wording mostly correct Accurate use of figurative language Words and phrases work well 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Precision with words and phrases Wording works effectively Figurative language is effective Words and phrases create picture 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Powerful, engaging "just right" words Wording is accurate and precise Artful use of figurative language Words and phrases create lingering images
Sentence fluency: The way the words and phrases flow throughout the text	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Choppy, rambling, incomplete No "sentence sense" Oral reading is not possible Repetitive beginnings 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Some simple sentences Occasional connecting word use Oral reading difficult Attempts variation in sentence beginnings 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Attempts compound and complex sentences Sentences usually connect Parts invite oral reading Sentences begin in different ways 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Begins to have easy flow and rhythm Strong and varied structure Oral reading encourages expression in places Sentences well crafted 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Rhythm and flow feel natural Creative use of sentence length and structure Invites expressive reading Sentences relate and build upon one another 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Carefully honed cadences Exquisitely constructed sentences Reading aloud is a breeze Sentences enhance meaning
Conventions: The mechanical correctness of the piece	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Spelling errors impede readability Incorrect punctuation and capitalization Many usage and grammar errors Lack of paragraphing 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Spelling errors even on easy words Errors on basic punctuation and capitalization Some usage and grammar errors Occasional use of paragraphing 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Spelling generally correct on basic words Routine punctuation and capitalization Grammar errors infrequent Consistent paragraphing 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Few spelling errors even on more difficult words Consistent use of punctuation and capitalization Grammar and usage correct Correct use of paragraphing 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Spelling correct even on more difficult words Accurate use of punctuation and capitalization Standard grammar and usage are under control Sound and creative paragraphing 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Uses unique spellings for style Stylistic use of punctuation/capitalization Grammar and usage contribute to clarity and style Paragraphing is stylistically effective
Presentation: The overall appearance of the work	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Handwriting unreadable Random spacing or lack of spacing Poor use of white space Overall appearance unacceptable 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Handwriting poor Some thought given to spacing Attempts at margins and headers Overall appearance distracting 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Handwriting mostly readable but inconsistent Attempts consistent spacing Margins and headers effective Overall appearance is acceptable 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Legible handwriting Spacing improves clarity Experiments with graphic elements Overall appearance shows balance and proportion 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Handwriting is consistent Good balance of space and text Effectively integrates graphic elements Overall appearance makes it easy to read 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Handwriting shows uniform slant, spacing and letter formation White space and text work in harmony Graphic elements and text are synchronized and aligned Overall appearance is pleasing

