

## Ideas and Content

	6
The writing is exceptionally clear, focused, and interesting. It holds the reader's attention throughout. Main ideas stand out and are developed by strong support and rich details suitable to audience and purpose.	
	5
The writing is clear, focused and interesting. It holds the reader's attention. Main ideas stand out and are developed by supporting details suitable to audience and purpose.	
	4
The writing is clear and focused. The reader can easily understand the main ideas. Support is present, although it may be limited or rather general.	
	3
The reader can understand the main ideas, although they may be overly broad or simplistic, and the results may not be effective. Supporting detail is often limited, insubstantial, overly general, or occasionally slightly off topic.	
	2
Main ideas and purpose are somewhat unclear or development is attempted but minimal.	
	1
The writing lacks a central idea or purpose.	

## Organization

	6
The organization enhances the central idea(s) and its development. The order and structure are compelling and move the reader through the text easily.	
	5
The organization enhances the central idea(s) and its development. The order and structure are strong and move the reader through the text.	
	4
Organization is clear and coherent. Order and structure are present, but may seem formulaic.	
	3
An attempt has been made to organize the writing; however, the overall structure is inconsistent or skeletal.	
	2
The writing lacks a clear organizational structure. An occasional organizational device is discernible; however, the writing is either difficult to follow and the reader has to reread substantial portions, or the piece is simply too short to demonstrate organizational skills.	
	1
The writing lacks coherence; organization seems haphazard and disjointed. Even after rereading, the reader remains confused.	

## Voice

	6
The writer has chosen a voice appropriate for the topic, purpose, and audience. The writer demonstrates deep commitment to the topic, and there is an exceptional sense of “writing to be read.” The writing is expressive, engaging, or sincere.	
	5
The writer has chosen a voice appropriate for the topic, purpose, and audience. The writer demonstrates commitment to the topic, and there is a sense of “writing to be read.” The writing is expressive, engaging, or sincere.	
	4
A voice is present. The writer seems committed to the topic, and there may be a sense of “writing to be read.” In places, the writing is expressive, engaging, or sincere.	
	3
The writer’s commitment to the topic seems inconsistent. A sense of the writer may emerge at times; however, the voice is either inappropriately personal or inappropriately impersonal.	
	2
The writing provides little sense of involvement or commitment. There is no evidence that the writer has chosen a suitable voice.	
	1
The writing seems to lack a sense of involvement or commitment.	

## Word Choice

	6
Words convey the intended message in an exceptionally interesting, precise, and natural way appropriate to audience and purpose. The writer employs a rich, broad range of words which have been carefully chosen and thoughtfully placed for impact.	
	5
Words convey the intended message in an interesting, precise, and natural way appropriate to audience and purpose. The writer employs a broad range of words which have been carefully chosen and thoughtfully placed for impact.	
	4
Words effectively convey the intended message. The writer employs a variety of words that are functional and appropriate to audience and purpose.	
	3
Language lacks precision and variety, or may be inappropriate to audience and purpose in places. The writer does not employ a variety of words, producing a sort of "generic" paper filled with familiar words and phrases.	
	2
Language is monotonous and/or misused, detracting from the meaning and impact.	
	1
The writing shows an extremely limited vocabulary or is so filled with misuses of words that the meaning is obscured. Only the most general kind of message is communicated because of vague or imprecise language.	

## Sentence Fluency

	<b>6</b>
The writing has an effective flow and rhythm. Sentences show a high degree of craftsmanship, with consistently strong and varied structure that makes expressive oral reading easy and enjoyable.	
	<b>5</b>
The writing has an easy flow and rhythm. Sentences are carefully crafted, with strong and varied structure that makes expressive oral reading easy and enjoyable.	
	<b>4</b>
The writing flows; however, connections between phrases or sentences may be less than fluid. Sentence patterns are somewhat varied, contributing to ease in oral reading.	
	<b>3</b>
The writing tends to be mechanical rather than fluid. Occasional awkward constructions may force the reader to slow down or reread.	
	<b>2</b>
The writing tends to be either choppy or rambling. Awkward constructions often force the reader to slow down or	
	<b>1</b>
The writing is difficult to follow or to read aloud. Sentences tend to be incomplete, rambling, or very awkward.	

## Conventions

	<b>6</b>
The writing demonstrates exceptionally strong control of standard writing conventions (e.g., punctuation, spelling, capitalization, grammar and usage) and uses them effectively to enhance communication. Errors are so few and so minor that the reader can easily skim right over them unless specifically searching for them.	
	<b>5</b>
The writing demonstrates strong control of standard writing conventions (e.g., punctuation, spelling, capitalization, grammar and usage) and uses them effectively to enhance communication. Errors are few and minor. Conventions support readability.	
	<b>4</b>
The writing demonstrates control of standard writing conventions (e.g., punctuation, spelling, capitalization, grammar and usage). Significant errors do not occur frequently. Minor errors, while perhaps noticeable, do not impede readability.	
	<b>3</b>
The writing demonstrates limited control of standard writing conventions (e.g., punctuation, spelling, capitalization, grammar and usage). Errors begin to impede readability.	
	<b>2</b>
The writing demonstrates little control of standard writing conventions. Frequent, significant errors impede readability.	
	<b>1</b>
Numerous errors in usage, spelling, capitalization, and punctuation repeatedly distract the reader and make the text difficult to read. In fact, the severity and frequency of errors are so overwhelming that the reader finds it difficult to focus on the message and must reread for meaning.	