

Six-Trait Writing Rubric-Deep Traits

	Content/Ideas	Organization	Voice
100%	<p><i>The paper is clearly focused and well developed.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Specific details come together as a whole to support the controlling idea. • Ideas are original and show insight (a deeper understanding). 	<p>The order and structure move the reader through the text easily.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An interesting introduction draws the reader into the paper, and a satisfying conclusion provides a sense of resolution. • A list of points in the introduction previews for the reader the map you will follow. A similar list recaps your points in conclusion. • Smooth effective transitions exist between paragraphs and between ideas within paragraphs. • Organizational patterns are effective and appropriate to the mode of the paper. 	<p>The writer's energy and enthusiasm for the subject drive the writing.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The mode and tone of the piece fit the topic, purpose, and audience well. • The text is lively, expressive, and captivating. • Clearly, the writing belongs to this writer and no other.
	<p>The paper has a general sense of purpose and adequate development.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The controlling idea is present; however it may be too large, predictable, or without focus. • Details support the controlling idea but may be general, few in number, inaccurate, excessive, or inappropriate. • Ideas are obvious and ordinary. 	<p>The order and structure do not readily move the reader through the text.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The introduction and conclusion are present. • The introduction does preview the points to be covered, though vaguely, incompletely, or out of order. • Transitions are present, but may be common, inappropriate, or overused. 	<p>The writer seems sincere and willing to communicate with the reader on a functional level.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The writer has not quite found his or her voice, but is experimenting. Moments here and there, amuse, surprise, or move the reader. • The writer holds back true individuality and enthusiasm. • Though aware of an audience, the writer only occasionally sounds interested in the subject.
50%	<p>The paper has a limited sense of purpose and no development.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The controlling idea is unclear or does not exist. • Details and support are limited or do not exist at all. • Ideas are overused or worn out 	<p>Organization neither supports nor develops the controlling idea. The lack of order and structure detract from the reader's understanding.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The introduction and/or conclusion are not present. • The introduction and conclusion do not preview or recap points. • Transitions do not exist. 	<p>The writer seems distanced from the topic, the audience, or both.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The writer does not personalize the paper. • The writing takes no risks and does not involve the reader. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The writer does not reach out to the audience or anticipate its interests and

		<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Organizational patterns are random	
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needs.

Surface Traits-If they cannot see past the surface of your writing...

	Word Choice	Sentence Fluency	Conventions
	<i>The language is rich and natural.</i>	The writing has a natural flow and rhythm. It sounds appealing when read aloud.	(grammar, spelling, punctuation, capitalization, and mechanics)
6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Words are specific and well chosen. Words create strong mental images. Powerful verbs provide energy. Language expression is original and appealing. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Varied sentence beginnings, structure, and length demonstrate planning. The sentences are smooth and sound rhythmic when read aloud. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Few errors exist in capitalization, punctuation, spelling, and/or grammar. Paragraphs are used to show new ideas when necessary. Errors are not readily noticeable.
	The language is useful and effective.	The writing flow and rhythm move effectively and easily.	Some errors exist in grammar, spelling, punctuation, capitalization, and mechanics,
3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Words are generally appropriate. Powerful verbs are used occasionally. Expression is clear, but words may be repeated or overused. Imagery is related to the content, but limited. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The writer shows understanding of writing simple sentences, but less control over more complex sentences. The sentence rhythm is attempted, but not consistent. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Paragraphs are present when necessary, but not all being in the correct places. Errors distract from the quality of the paper.
	The language is awkward and unclear.	The sentence flow and rhythm are awkward.	Many errors exist in grammar, spelling, punctuation, capitalization, and mechanics.
1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Words are incorrect and/or inappropriate. No powerful verbs are used: linking verbs are overused. The writer uses a limited, overused, or slang vocabulary. No imagery exists. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The sentences are random and choppy and/or may ramble on and on. The sentence rhythm is lacking. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Paragraphing is incorrect or nonexistent when needed. The writing contains many different types of errors.

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