

Six Writing Traits Rubric

Assignment _____

Score: _____/36

	Ideas	Organization	Voice	Word Choice	Conventions	Sentence Fluency
6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Clear, focused, compelling-holds reader's attention. · Striking insight, in-depth understanding of topic. · Takes reader on a journey of understanding. · Satisfyingly rich with significant, intriguing details. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Thoughtful structure guides reader through text. · Design smoothly embedded in text-never too obvious. · Satisfying, well-created transitions. · Structure enhances reader's understanding, enjoyment of the topic. · Unforgettable opening-enlightening, conclusion. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · As individual as fingerprints. · <i>Begs</i> to be read aloud-you cannot wait to share it. · Passionate, compelling-but never overdone. · Uses tone, as a tool to enhance meaning. · Tough to put down-holds readers enrapt. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · You want to read it more than once-just to savor it. · Uses everyday language in original ways-every word carries its own weight. · You wish <i>you'd</i> written it. · Powerful, stunning verbs. · Precise, thoroughly original-<i>quotable</i> in spots. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Only the pickiest editors will spot errors. · Conventions cleverly applied to bring out meaning. · Complexity of text shows a <i>wide range</i> of conventions- semicolons, ellipses, dashes, italics, etc. · Enticing layout. · Virtually ready to publish. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Easy to read with inflection to bring out <i>every ounce</i> of meaning. · Virtually every sentence begins differently. · Informational writing crisp and to the point. · Creative, personal writing lyrical, poetic, musical · You have to hear it to appreciate it fully.
5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Clear and focused throughout. · Strong main ideas, thesis, or story line. · Authentic, convincing, based on research, experience. · Main idea expanded, well supported by detail, evidence. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Order works well with topic, purpose · Structure evident, not overpowering. · Main ideas, turning points stand out. · Strong lead, appropriate sense of closure that "feels" · Strong, thoughtful transitions. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Enthusiastic, engaging, lively, expressive · Tone and flavor well suited to topic, audience, purpose. · Consistently reaches out to audience. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Precise, vivid, natural language. · Word choice enhances meaning. · Lively, appealing verbs and striking, fresh phrases. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Minors errors that are easily overlooked. · Text appears edited, proofed. · Sufficient complexity to show off many conventions. · Pleasing layout. · Ready to publish with minor change. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Easy going flow, rhythm, cadence. · Highly readable-a joy to share aloud. · Varied sentence structure, length. · Purposeful sentence beginnings.
4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Clear and focused more often than not · Readily identifiable main topic, thesis, story line. · Quality detail outweighs generalities, filler. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Order functional-reader never feels lost. · Structure supportive-occasionally predictable. · Functional lead and conclusion. · Transitions present-usually helpful. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Shows some sparks, moments of spontaneity. · Tone and flavor acceptable for topic, audience, purpose. · Voice comes and goes. Strong moments 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Functional, clear language used correctly. · <i>Some</i> clichés, jargon, or over-written phrases. · <i>Some</i> strong verbs-we'd like more! · Generalities and mechanical phrasing intermixed with originality. · Strong, promising moments. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Noticeable, minor errors that <i>don't</i> obscure meaning. · Readable-but lacks <i>close</i> attention to conventions. · Basics (e.g., periods, cap's, simple spelling) OK · Some errors on difficult spelling, usage, punctuation. · Acceptable layout. · A good once-over before publication. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Grammatical, natural, pleasant phrasing. · Few awkward moments. · Some variety in length, structure. · Some repetition in sentence beginnings.

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<p>3</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Main context, thesis, story line can be inferred. · Clear, focused moments overshadowed by fuzzy, underdeveloped, rambling text. · Generalities and filler outweigh quality detail. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Some out-of-place information-needs re-ordering. · Re-reading sometimes required to follow thought or story line. · Lead and conclusion attempted-one or both need work. · Transitions unclear or too formulaic, predictable. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Functional, often sincere-though sometimes distant. · Occasionally questionable tone for topic, purpose, audience. · Rarely “speaks” right to audience in engaging manner. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Moments of imprecise, stilted, or incorrectly used language create confusion, detract from message. · Now and then-a “gem” amidst numerous agates. · Verbs lack power-nouns lack precision. · Vague language outweighs clarity. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Noticeable, distracting errors that may affect meaning. · Errors even on basics; periods, simple spelling · More attention to layout needed. · Thorough, careful editing required for publication. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Mechanical, but readable. · Awkward moments outweigh smooth, natural phrasing. · Gangly, tangly run-ons or chop-chop-choppy sentences. · Repetitive beginnings.
<p>2</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Hint of thesis or story line to come (just a <i>glimmer</i>). · Loosely focused. A beginning point. · Fact lets in search of a solid main idea. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Hard to follow -even with effort much re-ordering needed · Lead and/or conclusion missing or formulaic. · Transitions often unclear or missing. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Distant, encyclopedic, overly formal-OR <i>too informal, chatty, sarcastic</i>. · Tone, flavor inappropriate for audience, purpose, topic · Minimal concern for audience. · Minimal involvement in topic. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Flat, dull, dry language or thesaurus overload. · Deciphering this message takes work. · Words used incorrectly or with annoying repetition. · Adjective avalanche-Where are the verbs??!! · Over-written-OR under-written (weak, general words like <i>nice, fun</i>). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Noticeable, frequent, distracting errors. · Numerous errors even on basics. · Limited attention to layout. · Line-by-line editing required to prepare text for publication. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Awkward enough to make you stumble, re-read often. · You can get through it-with patience. · You’ll need to rehearse it to read this one aloud.
<p>1</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Notes and random thoughts. Fodder for future writing. · Reader can only guess at meaning No “big picture.” · Main idea as yet unknown, even to the writer. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Disjointed list/collection of details, events. · No apparent connections. · No real lead or conclusion-it just begins, it just stops. · Transitions not attempted. · No recognizable structure. No direction. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Voice difficult to identify, find, or describe · No sense of person behind the worlds -is anyone <i>home?</i> · No noticeable concern for audience-no involvement in topic. Voice...just...<i>missing</i>. · Once you put it down, you just can’t pick it up again. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Meaning unclear-or buried under mounds of jargon · The message? It’s anybody’s guess... · Words seem chosen at random. · What is the writer trying to say? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Serious, frequent errors make reading all but impossible. · Even patient, attentive readers struggle. · Errors obscure meaning, put up road blocks · Extensive, <i>word-by-word</i> editing required for publication 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · <i>Very</i> hard to read-you slow down, re-read, but <i>still</i>... · Does not always make sense-is <i>this</i> a sentence? · Can only be read aloud with extensive oral editing (e.g. filling in many missing words or rephrasing awkward patterns).