6+1 Trait® Writing Rubric
Ideas

Key Question: Did the writer stay focused and share original and fresh information or perspective about the topic?

Ideas: The heart of the message, the content of the piece, the main theme, with details that enrich and develop that theme	
⑤	***This paper is clear and focused. It holds the reader's attention. Relevant anecdotes and details enrich the central theme*** A. The topic is narrow and manageable B. Relevant, telling, quality details go beyond the obvious C. Reasonably accurate details D. Writing from knowledge or experience; ideas are fresh and original E. Reader's questions are anticipated and answered F. Insight
③	***The writer is beginning to define the topic, even though development is still basic or general*** A. The topic is fairly broad B. Support is attempted C. Ideas are reasonably clear D. Writer has difficulty going from general observations to specifics E. The reader is left with questions F. The writer stays on topic
①	***The paper has no clear sense of purpose or central theme. The reader must make inferences based on sketchy or missing details*** A. The writer is still in search of a topic B. Information is limited or unclear or the length is not adequate for development C. The idea is a simple statement or a simple answer to the question D. The writer has not begun to define the topic E. Everything seems as important as everything else F. The text may be repetitious, disconnected, and contains too many random thoughts

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Organization

Key Question: Does the organizational structure enhance the ideas and make it easier to read?

Organization: The internal structure, the thread of central meaning, the logical and sometimes intriguing pattern of ideas.	
⑤	***The organizational structure of this paper enhances and showcases the central idea or theme of the paper; includes a satisfying introduction and conclusion*** A. An inviting introduction draws the reader in; a satisfying conclusion leaves the reader with a sense of closure and resolution B. Thoughtful transitions C. Sequencing is logical and effective D. Pacing is well controlled E. The title, if desired, is original F. Flows so smoothly, the reader hardly thinks about it
③	***The organizational structure is strong enough to move the reader through the text without too much confusion*** A. The paper has a recognizable introduction and conclusion B. Transitions often work well C. Sequencing shows some logic, yet structure takes attention away from content D. Pacing is fairly well controlled E. Organization sometimes supports the main point or storyline F. A title (if desired) is present
①	***The writing lacks a clear sense of direction*** A. No real lead B. Connections between ideas are confusing C. Sequencing needs work D. Pacing feels awkward E. No title is present (if requested) F. Problems with organization make it hard for the reader to get a grip on the main point or storyline

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Voice

Key Question: Would you keep reading this piece if it were longer? MUCH longer?

Voice: The unique perspective of the writer coming through in the piece through honesty, conviction, integrity, and believability	
⑤	***The writer of this paper speaks directly to the reader in a manner that is individual, compelling, and respects the purpose and audience for the writing.*** A. Adds interest; appropriate of purpose and audience B. The reader feels a strong interaction with the writer C. The writer takes a risk D. Expository or persuasive reflects understanding and commitment to topic E. Narrative writing seems honest, personal, and engaging
③	***The writer seems sincere but not fully engaged or involved. The result is pleasant or even personable, but not compelling.*** A. Obvious generalities B. Earnest, pleasing, safe writing C. The voice fades in and out D. Expository or persuasive writing lacks consistent engagement E. Narrative writing is reasonably sincere
①	***The writer seems indifferent, uninvolved, or distanced from the topic and/or the audience.*** A. No concern with audience B. Monotone C. Hum-drum and risk-free D. Lifeless or mechanical E. No point of view is present