

## Voice

Key Question: Do you clearly hear the writer speaking in the piece?						
Not Proficient						
Proficient						
	1-Beginning	2-Emerging	3-Developing	4-Capable	5-Experienced	6-Exceptional
	Author seems indifferent, or uninvolvement, or distanced from topic, purpose, and/or audience	Author relies on simplistic phrases such as "I like it" or "It was fun" to convey any personal quality to the piece	Author's voice begins to emerge but is not distinct or unique; reader gets an incomplete impression of the author's relationship to the purpose and topic	Author seems sincere, yet not fully engaged or involved; result is pleasant or even personable, though reader does not completely sense the author's commitment to the topic	Author addresses topic, purpose, and audience in sincere and engaging ways that convince the reader of the author's commitment to the topic	Author speaks directly to the reader in an individual, compelling, and engaging way that shows ownership of the purpose and topic; although passionate, author is respectful of audience and purpose
A	Author does not interact with reader in any fashion; writing is flat resulting in a disengaged reader	Author sticks to a too-predictable approach with nothing fresh to engage the reader	Author seems aware of reader yet avoids original insights in favor of safe generalities	Author begins to reach audience and has moments of successful interaction	Author communicates with reader in earnest, pleasing, authentic manner	Author interacts with and engages reader in ways that reveal his/her individual personality
B	Author reveals virtually nothing; anyone could have written the piece	Author offers glimpses of original thinking but is mostly generic revealing little of the author's perspective	Author surprises reader with occasional "aha" moments but minimal risk-taking	Author surprises, delights, or moves reader in more than one or two places	Author's moments of insight and risk-taking strengthen piece	Author reveals individual thinking in a committed, distinctive manner; the reader "hears" this author
C	Tone is not evident	Tone is ambiguous	Tone is flat; author does not reflect interest in the piece	Tone begins to support and enrich writing and clarify message	Tone supports message and purpose most of the time	Tone gives flavor and texture to message and is appropriate to author and purpose
D	Commitment to topic is missing; writing is lifeless or mechanical	Commitment to topic is vague; author does not help reader feel anything or understand topic better	Commitment to topic begins to emerge; reader is not convinced that author cares about topic	Commitment to topic is present; author's point of view emerges in places but may lapse into vague generalities detracting from the impact	Commitment to topic is clear and focused; author's enthusiasm is catching	Commitment to topic is strong; author's passion about topic is clear and compelling; reader wants to know more
E	Voice is absent or inappropriate for purpose/text type	Voice does not support purpose/text type; Narrative writing is mechanical; Argumentative writing lacks conviction or authority to set it apart from mere list of facts	Voice is starting to support purpose/text type though remains weak in many places; point of view may be inconsistent	Voice supports purpose/text type but frequently lacks spark; changes in point of view may occur; narrative is sincere; informational or argumentative writing establishes credibility	Voice supports author's purpose/text type; consistent point of view; narrative entertains, engages reader; informational or argumentative writing reveals why author cares about the topic and chose these ideas	Voice is appropriate for purpose/text type; point of view is consistent; voice is engaging, passionate and enthusiastic, and at times creative or personal