

6 POINT CONTENT AREA WRITING RUBRIC

Not Proficient				Proficient		
Trait	1 Beginning	2 Emerging	3 Developing	4 Capable	5 Experienced	6 Exceptional
Ideas/Content <i>Does the writer stay focused and answer all questions?</i>	a. No topic/main idea emerges b. no questions answered c. details do not make sense	a. Topic/main idea still missing or not clear several topics may emerge; b. few details c. many questions unanswered	a. Topic/main idea begins to emerge but is broad and lacks focus b. some details are present but lack specificity some questions remain unanswered	a. Topic/main idea is present and writer's direction is clear b. details begin to define the topic/main ideas c. few questions remain unanswered	a. Topic/main idea is focused but could benefit from additional information b. accurate and precise details support the main idea c. almost all questions are answered	a. Topic/main idea is clear b. and supported by details that are relevant and accurate c. all questions are answered
Organization <i>Does the organizational structure enhance the ideas and make the piece easier to read?</i>	Organization can't be identified a. paragraphing does not exist b. no lead/conclusion c. transitions are confusing or non-existent d. sequencing does not work; content is strung together randomly; writing lacks sense of direction	Organization is ineffective a. paragraphs still don't exist b. lead and/or conclusion are ineffective c. weak transitions emerge d. little sequencing present so it's hard to see how the pieces fit together	Organization begins to emerge a. attempt at paragraphing b. lead and/or conclusion exist c. some transitions present but repeat d. sequencing has completely taken over	Organization moves reader through text without too much confusion a. paragraphs come together with topic sentence and support b. recognizable lead and conclusion c. transitions often work d. sequencing shows some logic	Organization is smooth with only a few bumps a. ideas are chunked in proper paragraphs b. lead and conclusion go beyond the obvious, but could be enhanced c. transitions are logical but may lack originality d. sequencing makes sense and helps move the reader through piece	Organization is compelling and moves the reader easily through the text a. inviting lead draws the reader in while the conclusion leaves a sense of closure b. transitions clearly connect ideas throughout the paper and create sequencing that is logical and effective
Word Choice <i>Do the words convey the intended message in a precise and natural way?</i>	Vague words and limited vocabulary make the message unclear; author must search for words that convey meaning	Wrong words and flawed vocabulary result in impaired meaning	Words and vocabulary are adequate and correct in a general sense; some interpretation necessary to understand parts of the piece	Words and vocabulary are mostly correct and functional; author's meaning is easy to understand.	Almost all words and vocabulary are precise and accurate resulting in a clearly communicated message.	All words and vocabulary are powerful and engaging; the author's message is conveyed precisely and accurately.
Conventions <i>Are all content area vocabulary words spelled correctly? Is the capitalization and punctuation correct?</i>	a. Repeated errors in capitalization b. Repeated errors in end marks c. Repeated errors in spelling of content area vocabulary distract the reader making the text unreadable.	a. Frequent errors in capitalization b. Frequent errors in end marks c. Frequent errors in spelling of content area vocabulary make text difficult to understand.	a. Errors in capitalization b. Errors in end marks c. Errors in spelling of content area vocabulary distract the reader. Author continues to struggle	a. Capitalization is mostly correct; b. End marks are mostly correct; c. Spelling of content vocabulary words is mostly correct; reader can understand text.	a. Almost all capitalization b. Almost all end marks c. Almost all spelling of content area vocabulary is/are correct; reader can move through text quickly and easily.	a. All capitalization b. All end marks c. All content area vocabulary is/are correct making the text easy to read and understand.
Presentation <i>Is the finished piece easy to read, polished in presentation and pleasing to the eye?</i>	Presentation/formatting confuses the message; handwriting and spacing are irregular; spacing is absent; no white space; visuals are nonexistent or unrelated to text; no markers present.	Presentation/formatting delivers a clear message in some places and confusing in others; handwriting is inconsistent; if applicable, visuals might relate to text; one marker is used (title, bullets, subheadings, etc.)	Presentation/formatting delivers a clear message, yet lacks a finished, polished appearance; handwriting creates little stumbling in readability; spacing is consistent; visuals and/or graphs match and integrate with text at times; markers are used but do not organize the piece.	Presentation/formatting works and delivers a clear message that is appears finished; piece is easy to understand; handwriting is readable; spacing is consistent and neat; white space still not used to frame/balance text, markers and graphics; visuals consistent with text; some markers help organize piece.	Presentation/formatting enhances understanding; piece appears finished and is pleasing to the eye; handwriting is neat and readable with uniform, consistent spacing; white space helps reader focus on text and frames markers and/or graphics; visuals/graphics enrich meaning.	Presentation/formatting are exceptional and extend understanding of message with an appearance that is of superior quality; handwriting is easy to read and white space frames and balances text, markers and graphics; visuals extend meaning.

Please note: Departments other than Language Arts will **ONLY** be assessing 5 of the 7 traits.

6+1 Traits

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