

Six Traits Writing Rubric

Conventions	Level 4
	<p>The writing demonstrates strong control of standard writing conventions and uses them effectively to enhance communication. Errors are so few and minor that the reader can easily skim right over them unless specifically searching for them. Little editing is needed. The writer does most or all of the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • selects effective punctuation that guides the reader through the text • uses correct spelling, even of more difficult words • uses capitalization that is correct • consistently plans paragraph breaks that reinforce organization and meaning • writes with correct grammar and usage that contribute to clarity and style
	Level 3
	<p>The writing demonstrates reasonable control of standard writing conventions. There may be a few errors, but they do not impede readability. Some editing is needed. The writer does most or all of the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • utilizes correct end-of-sentence punctuation; internal punctuation may be incorrect • uses spelling that is usually correct, especially of common words • uses basic capitalization that is correct e.g. proper nouns, beginnings of sentences, "I" • employs paragraph breaks that, in general, reinforce the organizational structure • makes occasional errors in grammar and usage; problems are not severe enough to distort meaning or cause confusion
	Level 2
<p>The writing demonstrates limited control of standard writing conventions. Errors begin to impede readability. Significant editing is needed. The writer does most or all of the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • makes many end-of-sentence punctuation errors; internal punctuation contains frequent errors • makes spelling errors that distract the reader; misspells common words • capitalizes inconsistently and often incorrectly • runs paragraphs together or inserts paragraph breaks ineffectively • makes errors in grammar and usage that interfere with readability and meaning 	
Level 1	
<p>The writing demonstrates little or no control of standard writing conventions. The severity and frequency of errors are so overwhelming that the reader finds it difficult to focus on the message and must reread for meaning. Extensive editing is needed. The writer does most or all of the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • uses haphazard or incorrect punctuation, or punctuation is omitted • makes frequent spelling errors that significantly impair readability • use capitalization which appears to be random • inserts paragraph breaks that may be highly irregular or so frequent (every sentence) that they bear no relation to the organization of text • makes errors in grammar and usage that block the meaning and/or distract from the piece of writing 	

Notes/Comments: