

Five-Point Scoring Rubric

Grade 4-6

	1 Experimenting	2 Emerging	3 Developing	4 Effective	5 Strong
Ideas the meaning and development of the message	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Searching for a topic Limited information Vague details Random thoughts 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hints at topic Reader left with many unanswered questions Sporadic details Glimmer of main point 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> General topic defined Reasonably clear ideas Details present but not precise Shows some specifics 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Topic fairly narrowed New ways of thinking about topic attempted Credible details with some support Writer understands topic 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Narrow and manageable topic Clear, focused, and answers readers' questions Relevant, accurate details Shows insight into topic
Organization the internal structure of the piece	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No lead or conclusion Sequencing not present No awareness of pacing Hard to follow 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ineffective lead and conclusion Some sequencing apparent Pacing awkward Some attempt at structure 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Routine lead and conclusion Mainly logical sequencing Pacing generally under control Common structures detract from content 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Effective lead and effective conclusion Sequencing works well Well-controlled pacing Smooth flow 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Inviting introduction and satisfying conclusion Masterful sequencing Artful pacing used for stylistic effect Structure showcased the central ideas or theme
Voice the way the writer brings the topic to life	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No concern for audience Lifeless and mechanical Flat or inappropriate Purpose not present 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Occasionally aware of audience General statements require reader interpretation Tries to engage reader Hints at purpose 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Occasionally intrigues the reader Pleasing, yet "safe" Writer/reader connection fades in and out Purpose inconsistent 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Interesting and informative Pleasing; takes risks Engages reader most of the time Purpose consistent 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Compelling and engaging Takes effective risks Reflects interest and commitment to topic Purpose is clear and powerful
Word Choice the specific vocabulary the writer uses to convey meaning	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Vocabulary is limited Simple words used incorrectly No figurative language Words do not convey meaning 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Generally correct words; no spice Language is functional Attempts interesting words Words convey general meaning 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Some active verbs and precise nouns A moment or two of sparkle Experiments with figurative language Words begin to enhance meaning 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Effective and creative verbs and nouns Wording mostly correct Figurative language is effective Words and phrases work well 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Powerful and engaging words Wording is accurate and precise Artful use of figurative language Words/language create meaningful pictures
Sentence Fluency the way the words and phrases flow throughout the text	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Choppy, rambling, or incomplete No "sentence sense" Oral reading not possible Repetitive beginnings 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Some simple sentences Occasional connecting word use Oral reading difficult Attempts variation in sentence beginnings 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Attempts compound and complex sentences Sentences usually connect Parts invite oral reading Sentences begin in different ways 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Begins to have easy flow and rhythm Strong and varied structure Oral reading encourages expression in places Sentences well crafted 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Polished rhythm, cadence, and flow Creative use of sentence length and structure Invites expressive reading Sentences enhance meaning
Conventions the mechanical correctness of the piece	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Spelling errors impede readability Incorrect punctuation and capitalization Many grammar errors Lack of paragraphing 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Spelling errors on easy words Errors on basic punctuation and capitalization Some usage and grammar errors Occasional use of paragraphing 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Spelling generally correct on basic words Routine punctuation and capitalization Grammar errors infrequent Consistent paragraphing 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Few spelling errors even on more difficult words Consistent use of punctuation and capitalization Grammar and usage correct Paragraphing stylistically effective 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Spelling correct even on more difficult words Accurate and creative use of punctuation and capitalization Grammar and usage contribute to clarity and style Sound and creative paragraphing
Presentation the overall appearance of the work	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Handwriting unreadable Random spacing or lack of spacing Poor use of white space Overall appearance unacceptable 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Handwriting poor Some thought given to spacing Attempts at margins/headers Overall appearance is distracting 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Handwriting mostly readable but inconsistent Attempts consistent spacing Margins and headers effective Overall appearance is acceptable 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Legible handwriting Spacing improves clarity Experiments with graphic elements Overall appearance shows balance and proportion 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Consistent and uniform handwriting Good balance of space and text Effectively integrates graphic elements Overall appearance is pleasing