

SAS High School

6 Traits Writing Rubric

	Ideas		Organization		Voice
6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Clear, focused, and compelling – holds reader’s attention <input type="checkbox"/> Marked by insight, in-depth understanding of topic <input type="checkbox"/> Takes reader on a journey of understanding <input type="checkbox"/> Satisfyingly rich with significant, intriguing details 	6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Thoughtful structure guides reader through text <input type="checkbox"/> Design smoothly embedded in text – never too obvious <input type="checkbox"/> Structure enhances reader’s understanding, enjoyment of the topic <input type="checkbox"/> Unforgettable opening – enlightening, provocative conclusion <input type="checkbox"/> Satisfying, well-crafted transitions 	6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> As individual as fingerprints <input type="checkbox"/> Begs to be read aloud – you cannot wait to share it <input type="checkbox"/> Passionate, compelling – but never overdone <input type="checkbox"/> Uses tone, flavor as a tool to enhance meaning <input type="checkbox"/> Tough to put down – holds readers enrapt
5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Clear and focused throughout <input type="checkbox"/> Strong main idea, thesis, or story line <input type="checkbox"/> Authentic, convincing, based on research, experience <input type="checkbox"/> Main idea expanded, well supported by detail, evidence 	5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Order works well with topic, purpose <input type="checkbox"/> Structure evident, but not overpowering <input type="checkbox"/> Main ideas, turning points stand out <input type="checkbox"/> Strong lead, appropriate sense of closure that "feels right" <input type="checkbox"/> Strong, thoughtful transitions 	5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Enthusiastic, engaging, lively, expressive <input type="checkbox"/> Tone and flavor well suited to topic, audience, purpose <input type="checkbox"/> Consistently reaches out to audience
4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Clear and focused more often than not <input type="checkbox"/> Identifiable main topic, thesis, story line <input type="checkbox"/> Quality detail outweighs generalities and filler 	4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Order functional – reader never feels lost <input type="checkbox"/> Structure supportive – occasionally too predictable <input type="checkbox"/> Functional lead and conclusion <input type="checkbox"/> Transitions present – usually helpful 	4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Shows some sparks, moments of spontaneity <input type="checkbox"/> Tone and flavor acceptable for topic, audience, purpose <input type="checkbox"/> Voice comes and goes – like a TV picture with a weak reception

SAS High School

<p>3</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Clear, focused moments outweighed by fuzzy, underdeveloped rambling text <input type="checkbox"/> Main concept, thesis, story line can be inferred <input type="checkbox"/> Generalities and filler outweigh quality detail 	<p>3</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Out-of-place or unneeded information – needs re-ordering <input type="checkbox"/> Re-reading sometimes required to follow thought or story line <input type="checkbox"/> Lead and conclusion attempted – one or both work <input type="checkbox"/> Transitions unclear or too formulaic, predictable 	<p>3</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Functional, often sincere – though sometimes distant <input type="checkbox"/> Occasionally questionable tone for topic, purpose, audience <input type="checkbox"/> Rarely "speaks" right to audience in engaging manner
<p>2</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Predominantly fuzzy, confusing, loosely focused <input type="checkbox"/> A hint of a thesis or story line to come (just a glimmer) <input type="checkbox"/> Factlets wandering in search of a main idea 	<p>2</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Hard to follow – even with effort <input type="checkbox"/> Connections unclear <input type="checkbox"/> Lead and/or conclusion missing, misleading, or confusing <input type="checkbox"/> Transitions bewildering or missing 	<p>2</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Distant, encyclopedic, overly formal – OR too informal, chatty, sarcastic <input type="checkbox"/> Tone, flavor inappropriate for audience, purpose, topic <input type="checkbox"/> A "moment" of voice? Or are we reading too much into it <input type="checkbox"/> Little concern for audience – minimal involvement in topic
<p>1</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Notes and random thoughts <input type="checkbox"/> The reader must guess what this is about <input type="checkbox"/> Reader must fill in virtually ALL blanks <input type="checkbox"/> Main idea as yet unknown, even to the writer 	<p>1</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Disjointed list/collection of details, events <input type="checkbox"/> No "big picture" – nothing goes with anything else <input type="checkbox"/> No real lead or conclusion – it just starts, it just stops <input type="checkbox"/> Transitions not attempted 	<p>1</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Voice difficult to identify, find, or describe <input type="checkbox"/> No sense of person behind the words – is anyone home? <input type="checkbox"/> No noticeable concern for audience – no involvement in topic <input type="checkbox"/> Once you put it down, you just can't pick it up again

SAS High School

6 Traits Writing Rubric

	Word Choice		Sentence Fluency		Conventions
6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> You want to read it more than once – just to savor it <input type="checkbox"/> Uses everyday language in original ways – every word carries its own weight <input type="checkbox"/> You wish you’d written it <input type="checkbox"/> Powerful, stunning verbs <input type="checkbox"/> Precise, delightful, thoroughly original – quotable in spots 	6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Easy to read with inflection to bring out every ounce of meaning <input type="checkbox"/> Virtually every sentence begins differently <input type="checkbox"/> Informational writing crisp and to the point <input type="checkbox"/> Creative, personal writing lyrical, poetic, musical <input type="checkbox"/> Skims, sings, dances along like a lively script <input type="checkbox"/> You have to hear it to appreciate it fully 	6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Only the pickiest editors will spot errors <input type="checkbox"/> Conventions cleverly applied to bring out meaning <input type="checkbox"/> Complexity of text lets writer showcase a wide range of conventions – semicolons, ellipses, dashes, italics, etc. <input type="checkbox"/> Enticing layout <input type="checkbox"/> Virtually ready to publish
5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Precise, vivid, natural language <input type="checkbox"/> Word choice enhances meaning <input type="checkbox"/> Lively, appealing verbs and striking, fresh phrases 	5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Easy going flow, rhythm, cadence <input type="checkbox"/> Highly readable – a joy to share aloud <input type="checkbox"/> Varied sentence structure, length <input type="checkbox"/> Purposeful sentence beginnings 	5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Minor errors that are easily overlooked <input type="checkbox"/> Text appears edited, proofed <input type="checkbox"/> Sufficient complexity to show off a variety of conventions <input type="checkbox"/> Pleasing layout <input type="checkbox"/> Ready to publish with minor touch-ups
4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Functional, clear language used correctly 	4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Grammatical, natural, pleasant phrasing 	4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Noticeable, but minor errors that do not obscure meaning

SAS High School

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Some clichés, jargon, or over-written phrases <input type="checkbox"/> Some strong verbs – we’d like more <input type="checkbox"/> Generalities and mechanical phrasing intermixed with originality 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Few awkward moments <input type="checkbox"/> Some variety in length, structure <input type="checkbox"/> Some repetition in sentence beginnings 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Readable – but lacks close attention to conventions <input type="checkbox"/> Basics (e.g. periods, cap’s, simple spelling) are OK <input type="checkbox"/> Acceptable layout <input type="checkbox"/> A good once-over needed before publication
<p>3</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Moments of imprecise, stilted or incorrectly used language create confusion, detract from message <input type="checkbox"/> You may spot a "gem" amidst numerous agates <input type="checkbox"/> Verbs lack power – nouns lack precision <input type="checkbox"/> Vague or flat language outweighs clarity, sparkle 	<p>3</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Mechanical, but readable <input type="checkbox"/> Awkward moments outweigh smooth, natural phrasing <input type="checkbox"/> Gangly, tangly run-ons or chop-chop-choppy sentences <input type="checkbox"/> Repetitive beginnings 	<p>3</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Noticeable, distracting errors that may affect meaning <input type="checkbox"/> Errors even on basics: periods, simple spelling, cap’s, etc. <input type="checkbox"/> More attention to layout needed <input type="checkbox"/> Thorough editing required for publication
<p>2</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Flat, dull, dry language or thesaurus overload <input type="checkbox"/> Deciphering this message takes work <input type="checkbox"/> Words used incorrectly or with annoying repetition <input type="checkbox"/> Adjective avalanche – verb deficit <input type="checkbox"/> Over-written – OR under-written (weak, general words like nice, fun) 	<p>2</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Awkward enough to make you stumble, re-read often <input type="checkbox"/> You can get through it, but it takes patience <input type="checkbox"/> You’ll need to rehearse it to read this one aloud 	<p>2</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Noticeable, frequent, distracting errors <input type="checkbox"/> Numerous errors even on basics <input type="checkbox"/> Limited attention to layout <input type="checkbox"/> Line-by-line editing required for publication

SAS High School

1 <ul style="list-style-type: none"><input type="checkbox"/> Reader feels continually befuddled<input type="checkbox"/> The message? It's anybody's guess<input type="checkbox"/> Words chosen at random – create no clear meaning Main idea as yet unknown, even to the writer	1 <ul style="list-style-type: none"><input type="checkbox"/> Very hard to read – you slow down, re-read, but still<input type="checkbox"/> Does not always make sense – is this a sentence?	1 <ul style="list-style-type: none"><input type="checkbox"/> Serious, frequent errors make reading all but impossible<input type="checkbox"/> Even patient, attentive readers struggle<input type="checkbox"/> Errors so numerous that meaning is ambiguous, unclear
--	---	---