

# SAS High School

## 6 Traits Writing Rubric

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

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

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

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

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