

Traits Scoring Rubric

| Trait | 1 | 3 | 5 |
|--------------------------|--|---|---|
| Ideas and Content | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The ideas are unclear. • The purpose is unclear or incorrectly focused. • The writing repeats information or presents information as a list rather than in paragraphs. • There is no elaboration. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The ideas are somewhat unclear or trite. • The focus needs to be clearer. • The writing doesn't always hold the reader's attention. • There are too few details or they are irrelevant. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The ideas are clear, fresh, and/or original. • The writing is focused. • The main ideas support the topic. • The details support the main ideas. |
| Organization | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There is no real beginning to the paper. • The writing lacks organization and is confusing. • The ideas aren't connected. • There is no conclusion. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The beginning is somewhat weak. • The writing needs a clearer organization. • The arrangement of main ideas and details is disjointed. • The conclusion is weak. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The beginning is engaging. • The writing is well-organized. • Main ideas and supporting details are logically grouped. • Transitional words are used. • The conclusion is strong. |
| Voice | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The writer's personality cannot be heard. • The writing lacks any feeling or emotion. • The reader does not feel connected to the writer. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The writer's personality is somewhat weak. • The writer doesn't convey his or her feelings well. • The reader sometimes feels connected to the writer and gets a sense of humor, suspense, etc. from the writing. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The writer's personality can be heard. • The writer conveys his or her feelings. • The reader feels connected to the writer and gets a sense of humor, suspense, etc. from the writing. |
| Word Choice | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Word choice lacks interest and precision. • Many words are used incorrectly. • Word choice is inappropriate to the purpose and the audience. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Word choice could be more interesting and precise. • Some words may be used incorrectly. • Word choice may be somewhat inappropriate to the purpose and the audience. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The words chosen are precise, active, descriptive, and create a clear mental picture. • Word choice is appropriate to the purpose and the audience. |
| Sentence Fluency | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The writing is mechanical or unwieldy. • There is no sentence variety. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The writing moves along but may sound repetitive and stilted. • More sentence variety is needed. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The writing flows smoothly and sounds natural. • Sentence length and structure are varied. |
| Conventions | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There are many errors in capitalization, punctuation, spelling, and usage. • The mistakes seriously distract or affect understanding. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There are some errors in capitalization, punctuation, spelling, and usage. • Mistakes cause some confusion. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The writing follows standard capitalization, punctuation, spelling, and usage rules. • Any mistakes do not detract. |
| Presentation | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The writing is barely legible. • Correct format is not used. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The writing is legible, but is somewhat difficult to read. • The writing generally follows the correct format. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The paper is typed, or the handwriting is neat and legible. • The writing follows the correct format. |