Six Traits Writing Rubric

	6 Exemplary	5 Strong	4 Proficient	3 Developing	2 Emerging	1 Beginning
Ideas & Content *✎ main theme* *✎ supporting details*	• Exceptionally clear, focused, engaging with relevant, strong supporting detail	• Clear, focused, interesting ideas with appropriate detail	• Evident main idea with some support which may be general or limited	• Main idea may be cloudy because supporting detail is too general or even off-topic	• Purpose and main idea may be unclear and cluttered by irrelevant detail	• Lacks central idea; development is minimal or non-existent
Organization *✎ structure* *✎ introduction* *✎ conclusion*	• Effectively organized in logical and creative manner • Creative and engaging intro and conclusion	• Strong order and structure • Inviting intro and satisfying closure	• Organization is appropriate, but conventional • Attempt at introduction and conclusion	• Attempts at organization; may be a "list" of events • Beginning and ending not developed	• Lack of structure; disorganized and hard to follow • Missing or weak intro and conclusion	• Lack of coherence; confusing • No identifiable introduction or conclusion
Voice *✎ personality* *✎ sense of audience*	• Expressive, engaging, sincere • Strong sense of audience • Shows emotion: humour, honesty, suspense or life	• Appropriate to audience and purpose • Writer behind the words comes through	• Evident commitment to topic • Inconsistent or dull personality	• Voice may be inappropriate or non-existent • Writing may seem mechanical	• Writing tends to be flat or stiff • Little or no hint of writer behind words	• Writing is lifeless • No hint of the writer
Word Choice *✎ precision* *✎ effectiveness* *✎ imagery*	• Precise, carefully chosen • Strong, fresh, vivid images	• Descriptive, broad range of words • Word choice energizes writing	• Language is functional and appropriate • Descriptions may be overdone at times	• Words may be correct but mundane • No attempt at deliberate choice	• Monotonous, often repetitious, sometimes inappropriate	• Limited range of words • Some vocabulary misused
Sentence Fluency *✎ rhythm, flow* *✎ variety*	• High degree of craftsmanship • Effective variation in sentence patterns	• Easy flow and rhythm • Good variety in length and structure	• Generally in control • Lack variety in length and structure	• Some awkward constructions • Many similar patterns and beginnings	• Often choppy • Monotonous sentence patterns • Frequent run-on sentences	• Difficult to follow or read aloud • Disjointed, confusing, rambling
Conventions *✎ age appropriate, spelling, caps, punctuation, grammar*	• Exceptionally strong control of standard conventions of writing	• Strong control of conventions; errors are few and minor	• Control of most writing conventions; occasional errors with high risks	• Limited control of conventions; frequent errors do not interfere with understanding	• Frequent significant errors may impede readability	• Numerous errors distract the reader and make the text difficult to read

Adapted for Regina Public Schools from Vicki Spandel, Creating Writers.
Regina, SK Canada