

6 + 1 Writing Traits	exemplary	accomplished	developing	beginning
Ideas	The paper is clear and focused. The main theme is identified and fully developed. Supporting details with commentary are interesting, important, and informative. Ideas are strong and clear and hold the reader's attention.	The paper identifies the main theme but may not be fully developed. Supporting details with commentary are, for the most part, interesting, important, and informative. Ideas are clear and hold the reader's attention.	The paper defines the main theme even though development is basic and general. The ideas and supporting details are reasonably clear, though they may not be detailed enough to show understanding.	The paper has no clear sense of purpose or main theme. Supporting details are limited or unclear. The text may be repetitious or may read like a collection of random or disconnected thoughts.
Organization	The organization flows smoothly from an inviting introduction, which includes a clear thesis statement, to a satisfying conclusion. Sequencing is logical and effective and uses appropriate transitions.	The organization flows from introduction, which includes a clear thesis statement, to conclusion. Sequencing is logical and uses transitions.	The organization is strong enough to guide the reader through the text without too much confusion. Introduction with a thesis statement and/or conclusion are present but weak. Transitions are nonexistent or confusing.	The writing lacks organization or a clear sense of direction. No adequate introduction and/or conclusion are present. Thesis statement is nonexistent.
Voice	The writer speaks directly to the audience with a personal tone and flair. The writer takes ideas and makes them his/her own. Writing shows knowledge and experience and maintains consistent and accurate POV.	The writer speaks to the audience with a personal tone. In most cases the writer takes ideas and makes them his/her own. Writing shows some knowledge and experience and maintains consistent and accurate POV.	The writing somewhat draws the audience into the topic. The result is pleasant but not compelling. Writing shows little knowledge and experience. POV is inconsistent or inaccurate.	The writing is mechanical and lacks purpose. POV is inconsistent. The writer seems indifferent, uninvolved, or distanced from the topic and/or audience.
Word Choice	Imagery and verbs are powerful and energetic. Specific and accurate words are used to convey the intended meaning.	Imagery and verbs are mostly powerful and energetic. In most cases specific and accurate words are used to convey the intended meaning.	The language is accurate, even if it lacks much energy. Imagery and word choice may be weak.	The writing uses a limited and vague vocabulary. The writing shows a misuse of language.
Sentence Fluency	All sentences sound natural and flow smoothly when read aloud. Each sentence is clear and well-constructed. Sentences vary in length and style.	Most sentences sound natural and flow smoothly when read aloud. Most sentences are clear and well-constructed. Most sentences vary in length and style.	Sentences may not sound natural or flow smoothly. Some sentences are choppy, incomplete, rambling, or awkward. Some sentence variety is attempted.	Sentences do not sound natural or flow smoothly. Sentences are choppy, incomplete, rambling, or awkward. Sentences exhibit very little variety.
Conventions	Writing exhibits no distracting errors in grammar, spelling, punctuation, or usage. Appropriate and consistent verb tense is used.	Writing exhibits few distracting errors in grammar, spelling, punctuation, and usage. Appropriate and consistent verb tense is used.	Writing exhibits several distracting errors in grammar, spelling, punctuation, and usage. Verb tense may not be consistent or appropriate.	Writing consistently exhibits errors in grammar, spelling, punctuation, and usage. Verb tense is not consistent or appropriate.
Presentation	District heading (MLA format) is present and exact. Writing is properly spaced, uses designated margins, and contains an original title.	District heading (MLA format) is present but may be incorrect. Writing is properly spaced, uses designated margins, but may contain an un-original title.	District heading (MLA format) is present but may be incorrect. Writing may be improperly spaced, doesn't adhere to margins, or has an un-original title.	District heading (MLA format) may not be present. Writing may be improperly spaced, doesn't adhere to margins, or has no title.