

The Six Traits- Holistic 6 Traits Rubric

Strengths Outweigh Problems at the 4-6 Levels

6 Clear, focused main idea enriched with telling, unusual details

- Inviting lead, satisfying conclusion, reader never feels lost
- Irresistible voice that asks to be shared
- Vivid, memorable, precise words—no wasted words
- Clear, fluent sentences that make expressive reading easy
- Only minimal touch-ups needed prior to publication

5 Clear, focused main idea with striking details

- Strong lead and conclusion, structure that guides the reader
- Individual, confident voice speaks to readers
- Accurate, well-chosen words that make meaning clear
- Clear, fluent sentences that make expressive reading possible
- Very light editing needed prior to publication

4 Clear main idea, supported by details (description, examples, etc.)

- Functional lead and conclusion, reader can follow story/discussion
- Moments of strong voice that speaks to readers
- Functional, clear language that carries general message
- Clear sentences that can be read without difficulty
- A good once-over needed prior to publication

Problems Outweigh Strengths at the 1-3 Levels

3 Main idea can be inferred—broad, sweeping, general details

- Organization formulaic OR sometimes hard to follow
- Voice comes and goes—or not always a good fit with audience
- Marked by tired, overused words, phrases OR overwritten
- Choppy sentences or run-ons, limited variety in length, structure
- Thorough editing needed prior to publication

2 Reader must guess at main idea—few details or just a list

- Highly formulaic OR frequently hard to follow
- Distant voice—writing to get it done
- Filled with tired, overused language OR overwritten, wordy
- Consistent problems with repetitive, awkward, or run-on sentences
- Line by line editing needed prior to publication

1 No main idea yet—random collection of thoughts

- Reader consistently goes back—no apparent link from thought to thought
- Hard to “hear” the writer in the text—no reader connection
- Word choice confusing, general, repetitive, vague and/or incorrect
- Sentence problems abound, hard to tell where sentences begin or end
- Word by word editing needed prior to publication