

**MESA PUBLIC SCHOOLS**  
**Student Friendly 6+1 Traits™ Writing Rubric**

	1	2	3	4	5	6
 <b>Ideas</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>I don't know what I want to say yet.</li> <li>I don't have a main idea.</li> <li>I don't have details.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>I have a topic that is too big or one I don't know much about.</li> <li>I think I have a main idea, but I'm not sure.</li> <li>I only have a few details.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>I stick to the topic most of the time. It might be better if the topic was smaller.</li> <li>I think you can figure out my main idea.</li> <li>I need to include more information in my details.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>I understand the topic but could narrow it a little more.</li> <li>I can tell what the main idea is all about.</li> <li>I have some good details to explain the main idea.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>I know a lot about my topic.</li> <li>It's easy to tell the main idea.</li> <li>I have great details to explain the main idea.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>I am an expert on my topic.</li> <li>The main idea is crystal clear.</li> <li>I have details that are unusual and not everyone already knows.</li> </ul>
 <b>Organization</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>I have ideas all jumbled up together.</li> <li>I have no lead or conclusion.</li> <li>Transitions—what are those?</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>I have ideas that go off in many directions.</li> <li>I have a lead or conclusion, but it needs work.</li> <li>I have a couple of transitions, but they don't connect ideas clearly.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>I have ideas that are not always in order and are confusing.</li> <li>I have a lead and conclusion, but they need work.</li> <li>I have some transitions that connect ideas clearly.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Most ideas are in the right spot.</li> <li>I have a lead and conclusion.</li> <li>I have transitions that connect most ideas.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Every idea is in just the right place.</li> <li>I have a lead that introduces the paper and a conclusion that wraps it up.</li> <li>I have transitions that connect ideas smoothly.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Super organization makes my ideas clear.</li> <li>My lead is a "Wow!" My conclusion is a "Wow!"</li> <li>Everything connects. You never wonder how I got from beginning to end.</li> </ul>
 <b>Voice</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>I wouldn't read this myself if I didn't have to.</li> <li>I don't care if anyone reads this writing.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>I think there could be a moment of voice here or there.</li> <li>My audience? Well, who are they anyhow?</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>I have a tiny part of me in this writing.</li> <li>I don't usually think about the audience. I just write.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>I think it sounds like me in parts of this writing.</li> <li>I match the audience with the purpose.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>My voice is clear, and I think it sounds like me.</li> <li>I work hard to make my writing interesting so it will stand out.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>This is me. It's as individual as my fingerprints.</li> <li>I am writing just for you—my reader.</li> </ul>

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 <b>Word Choice</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>I use words that do not seem to work.</li> <li>I use words I don't understand.</li> <li>I use the same words over and over.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>I use the first words that come to my mind.</li> <li>My words are sometimes confusing.</li> <li>My words do not paint a picture in the reader's mind.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>I think a lot of my words are ordinary and everyone uses them.</li> <li>Some of my verbs are not strong or lively.</li> <li>I have too many unneeded words, so there is no clear picture in the reader's mind.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>I use words that are clear and make sense.</li> <li>I have some strong verbs, adjectives, and adverbs.</li> <li>I still have some unneeded words or phrases to take out, but a picture is beginning to form in the reader's mind.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>I use words that are clear, make sense, and are interesting.</li> <li>I have strong verbs, sensory words, and precise nouns.</li> <li>My words do paint a picture in the reader's mind.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>I use powerful words that create a clear message.</li> <li>I have strong verbs, sensory words, precise nouns, and modifiers.</li> <li>My words paint a vivid picture in the reader's mind.</li> </ul>
 <b>Sentence Fluency</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>This is very hard to read aloud.</li> <li>I use mostly short, choppy sentences or long, rambling sentences.</li> <li>If I used dialogue, it does not make sense.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>This is a little hard to read aloud.</li> <li>I use some choppy sentences and run-on sentences.</li> <li>If I used dialogue, it doesn't sound like the way people talk.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Choppy sentences slow the reader down.</li> <li>I use some variety in sentence beginnings and lengths.</li> <li>If I used dialogue, it sounds like the way people talk some of the time.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The writing is easy to read aloud.</li> <li>I use a variety of sentence beginnings and lengths.</li> <li>If I used dialogue, it sounds like the way people talk most of the time.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The writing is easy to read aloud with expression.</li> <li>I use a variety of sentence beginnings and lengths, so the writing flows smoothly.</li> <li>If I used dialogue, it sounds like the way people talk.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The writing has an easy flow and rhythm.</li> <li>I use a variety of sentence beginnings and lengths, so my writing flows smoothly and has bounce.</li> <li>If I used dialogue, it sounds like the way people talk and makes my writing stronger.</li> </ul>
 <b>Conventions</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>I have so many errors it is impossible to understand my writing.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>I have so many errors it is difficult to understand my writing.</li> <li>I need to edit nearly every line.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>I have some errors, so it is difficult to understand my writing.</li> <li>Basics (e.g., periods, caps, simple spelling) are correct.</li> <li>I need to do a lot of editing.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>I have a few errors, but they don't make my writing difficult to understand.</li> <li>I use a variety of conventions correctly (semicolons, ellipses, dashes, italics, etc.)</li> <li>I need to do some editing.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>I use conventions correctly, so my writing is easy to understand.</li> <li>I use a variety of conventions to make an impression on the reader.</li> <li>I have a few errors to fix.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>I use conventions effectively, so my writing is spectacular.</li> <li>I add style to my paper using a variety of conventions.</li> <li>I am ready to publish my writing.</li> </ul>
 <b>Presentation</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>I can't read my own handwriting.</li> <li>The font, size, and spacing make my paper impossible to read.</li> <li>If I used visuals, they do not go with the ideas in my writing.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>It is difficult to read my handwriting.</li> <li>The font, size, and spacing make my paper difficult to read.</li> <li>My visuals do not support my ideas.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>My letters slant in different ways.</li> <li>The font, size, and spacing may make my paper difficult to read.</li> <li>Some of my visuals do not support my ideas.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>My handwriting has clearly formed letters and the spacing is just right.</li> <li>The font, size, and spacing I chose is OK.</li> <li>My visuals help the reader understand my ideas.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Most of my letters are formed correctly, with the same slant and spacing.</li> <li>The font, size, and spacing make my paper easy to read.</li> <li>Visuals are used throughout my writing and strengthen my ideas.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>All of my letters are formed correctly, with the same slant and spacing.</li> <li>The font, size, and spacing is eye-catching.</li> <li>Visuals are used throughout my writing and clearly strengthen my ideas.</li> </ul>