

**Creative Writing Rubric
Appendix E**

Ideas	Organization	Voice
<p>5: The writing is clear, well-developed, and enhanced by the kind of detail that keeps readers reading. *The writer has selected just the right information to make the paper interesting. *Details work together to expand the main topic or develop a story, giving the whole piece a strong sense of focus. *The amount of detail is just right—not skimpy, not overwhelming. *The writer’s perspective lends the writing a satisfying ring of authenticity.</p>	<p>5: The order, presentation, or internal structure of the piece is compelling and guides the reader purposefully through the text. *The entire piece has a strong sense of direction and balance. *Details seem to fit right where they are placed, making the text easy to follow and understand. *Pacing feels natural and effective; the writer knows just when to linger and when to move on. *Organization flows so smoothly the reader does not need to think about it.</p>	<p>5: The writer’s energy and passion for the subject drive the writing, making the text lively, expressive, and engaging. *The tone and flavor of the piece, fit the topic, purpose, and audience. *The writing is open and honest. *Text is lively and holds readers’ attention.</p>
<p>3: The writer has made a solid beginning in defining a topic or mapping out a story line. It’s easy to see where the paper is headed, though more expansion is needed. *General information provides the big picture and makes the reader long for specifics. *Well focused information blends with repetition, trivia, or meanderings. *The writer draws on some personal experience, but too often settles for cliché thinking. *Too much unneeded information---where’s the balance?</p>	<p>3: The organizational structure allows the reader to move through the text without confusion. *Sequencing of ideas seem reasonably appropriate. *Structure may be so dominant or predictable that it literally smoothers the ideas and voice. *Information is mostly presented in an orderly fashion.</p>	<p>3: The writer seems sincere and willing to communicate with the reader on a functional, if distant level. *The tone and flavor of the piece could be altered slightly to better fit the topic, purpose, or audience. *The writer often seems reluctant to ‘let go’ holding individuality, passion, and spontaneity in check. Voice pops on occasion. *The writer is there and then gone.</p>
<p>1: Sketchy, loosely focused information forces the reader to make inferences. Readers will likely notice more than one of these problems: *The main topic is still unclear, out of focus, or not yet known. *Missing, limited, or unrelated details require the reader to fill in many blanks. *Everything seems as important as everything else.</p>	<p>1: Ideas, details, or events seem loosely strung together. Readers will likely notice more than one of these problems: *No clear sense of direction to carry the reader from point to point. *Sequencing of ideas feels random and not purposeful. *The writing does not move purposefully toward any main message or turning point.</p>	<p>1: The writer seems definitely distanced from the topic, audience, or both; as a result, the text may lack life, spirit, or energy. Readers will likely notice more than one of these problems: *The tone and flavor of the piece are inappropriate for the topic, purpose, and/or audience. *Though it may communicate on a functional level, the writing takes no risks and does not engage, energize, or move the reader. *The writer does not project personal enthusiasm for the topic or make it come alive for the reader.</p>

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Word Choice	Flow	Conventions
<p>5: Precise vivid, natural language paints a strong, clear and complete picture in the reader’s mind. *Message is clear and easy to understand. *Phrasing is memorable and not over done. *Striking words or phrases linger in the reader’s memory often prompting connections, reflective thoughts, or insights.</p>	<p>5: An easy flow make this text a delight to read aloud. *Lines are well crafted and invite expressive oral reading. *The writing has cadence as if the reader hears the beat in his/her head. *Lines flow well into one another</p>	<p>5: The writer shows excellent control over a wide range of standard writing conventions and uses them with accuracy and (when appropriate) creativity to enhance meaning. *Errors are so few and so minor that a reader can easily overlook them....they aren’t distracting. *The text appears clean, edited, and polished. *The text is of sufficient length and complexity to demonstrate control of conventions appropriate for age/experience.</p>
<p>3: The language gets the job done. *Most words are correct and adequate. *A memorable phrase here or there strikes a spark, leaving the reader hungry for more. *Familiar words and phrases give the text an “old couch” kind of feel. *General meaning is clear, but the brush is to broad or jargon is present.</p>	<p>3: The text hums along with a steady beat. *Lines are easy to read aloud, given a little rehearsal. *Graceful, natural phrasing intermingles with more mechanical structure. *Some lines flow better than others.</p>	<p>3: The writer shows reasonable control over the most widely used writing conventions, creating text that is adequately readable. *There are enough errors to distract an attentive reader; however, errors do not seriously impair readability. *Writer clearly needs polishing. *Reads like a 2nd draft—moderate editing would be required to get the text ready for publication.</p>
<p>1: The writer struggles with a limited vocabulary or uses language that simply does not speak to the intended audience. Readers will likely notice more than once of these problems: *Vague words and phrases *Cliches or redundant phrases encourage the reader to skim, not linger *Words are used incorrectly *Inflated or jargonistic language makes the text uninviting *Reader has trouble grasping the writer’s message</p>	<p>1: A fair interpretive oral reading of this text takes practice. Readers will likely notice more than one of these problems: *Irregular or unusual word patterns make it hard to tell where lines begin and end. *The lines are short and choppy and bump the reader through the text. *The reader must often pause and reread for meaning.</p>	<p>1: The writer demonstrates limited control over widely used conventions. Readers are likely to notice one or more of these problems: *Errors are frequent and serious enough to be distracting; it’s hard to focus on the other traits. *The reader may need to read once to decode, then again to interpret. *The paper reads like a rough 1st draft and needs extensive editing.</p>

