

Student-Friendly Scoring Guide

Ideas

6

I've Got It!

- * I picked a topic and stuck with it.
- * My topic is small enough to handle.
- * I know a lot about this topic.
- * My topic is bursting with fascinating details.

5

4

On My Way

- * I've wandered off my main topic in a few places.
- * My topic might be a little too big to handle.
- * I know enough about my topic to get started.
- * Some of my details are too general.

3

2

Just Starting

- * I have included several ideas that might make a good topic.
- * No one idea stands out as most important.
- * I'm still looking for a topic that will work well.
- * My details are fuzzy or not clear.

1

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Organization

6

I've Got It!

- * I included a bold beginning.
- * I've shown how the ideas connect.
- * My ideas are in an order that really works.
- * My ending leaves you with something to think about.

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On My Way

- * There is a beginning, but it's not particularly special.
- * Most of my details fit logically; I could move or get rid of others.
- * Sections of my writing flow logically, but other parts seem out of place.
- * My ending is not original, but it does clearly show where the piece stops.

3

2

Just Starting

- * I forgot to write a clear introduction to this piece.
- * I have the right "stuff" to work with, but it's not in order.
- * The order of my details are jumbled and confusing.
- * Oops! I forgot to end my piece with a wrap-up.

1

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Voice

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I've Got It!

- * I used a distinctive tone that works with the topic.
- * I was clear about why I was writing, so my voice is believable.
- * The audience will connect with what I wrote.
- * I tried some new ways of expressing myself to add interest.

5

4

On My Way

- * I played it safe. You only get a glimpse of me in this piece.
- * I wasn't always clear about my purpose, so my voice fades in and out.
- * I'm only mildly interested in this topic.
- * I didn't try to express myself in new ways.

3

2

Just Starting

- * I didn't share anything about what I think and feel in this piece.
- * I'm not sure what or why I'm writing.
- * This topic is not interesting to me at all.
- * I'm bored and it shows.

1

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Word Choice

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I've Got It!

- * I used strong verbs to add energy.
- * My words are specific and are colorful, fresh, and snappy.
- * My words help my reader see my ideas.
- * My words are accurate and used correctly.

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4

On My Way

- * Only one or two verbs stand out in this piece.
- * I've used many ordinary words; there's no sparkle.
- * My words give the reader the most general picture of the idea.
- * I've misused some words or overused others.

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2

Just Starting

- * I haven't used any verbs that convey energy.
- * I've left out key words.
- * Many of my words are repetitive or just wrong.
- * I'm confused about how to use words as I write.

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Sentence Fluency

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I've Got It!

- ✿ My sentences are well-built and have varied beginnings.
- ✿ I've varied the length and structure of my sentences.
- ✿ My sentences read smoothly.
- ✿ I've tried to write using interjections or fragments to create variety.

4



3

On My Way

- ✿ My sentences are working pretty well.
- ✿ I've tried a couple of ways to begin my sentences differently, but could do more.
- ✿ When I read my piece aloud, there are a few places that need smoothing.
- ✿ I might put some sentences together or I could cut a few in two.

2



1

Just Starting

- ✿ My sentences aren't working well.
- ✿ The beginnings of my sentences sound the same.
- ✿ I'm having trouble reading my piece aloud.
- ✿ I've used words like "and" or "but" too many times.

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Conventions

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I've Got It!

- * My spelling is magnificent.
- * I put capital letters in all the right places.
- * I used punctuation correctly to make my writing easy to read.
- * I used correct grammar and indented paragraphs where necessary.

5

4

On My Way

- * Only my simpler words are spelled correctly.
- * I used capital letters in easy spots.
- * I have correct punctuation in some places but not in others.
- * There are a few places where the grammar isn't quite right, and I've forgotten to indicate paragraphs except at the beginning.

3

2

Just Starting

- * My words are hard to read and understand because of the spelling.
- * I've not followed the rules for capitalization.
- * My punctuation is missing or in the wrong places.
- * The grammar needs a lot of work. I forgot about using paragraphs.

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Presentation

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I've Got It!

- ✿ I've used my very best handwriting.
- ✿ My font choices are very readable.
- ✿ The margins on my paper are even and frame the writing.
- ✿ I've used a heading and numbered pages or bulleted a list or fancy capital.

5



On My Way

- ✿ My handwriting is readable, but it's not my best.
- ✿ I picked one main font but then added too many fancy fonts.
- ✿ I started out with even margins but they didn't end up that way.
- ✿ I put my name and date on my paper but I didn't try anything else..

3



Just Starting

- ✿ Yikes! I'm having a hard time reading my own handwriting.
- ✿ My fonts are distracting.
- ✿ I didn't use margins and my writing doesn't have white space.
- ✿ I forgot all about adding my name, the date, page numbers, and more.

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