Student-Friendly Scoring Guide

Ideas

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.

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.

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.
Student-Friendly Scoring Guide

Organization

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.

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.

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.
Student-Friendly Scoring Guide

Voice

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.

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.

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.
Student-Friendly Scoring Guide

Word Choice

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.

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.

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.
Student-Friendly Scoring Guide

Sentence Fluency

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.

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.

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.
Student-Friendly Scoring Guide

Conventions

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.

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.

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.
Student-Friendly Scoring Guide

Presentation

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.

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.

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.