

6 TRAIT WRITING ASSESSMENT

Northwest. Known as the Six Trait Writing Model of Instruction and Assessment, this. "œrubric" is designed to help teachers grade and guide children in six specific .

Items on the rubric range from state-mandated writing standards to individual items specific to an assignment. With this slower approach, each day of a mini-lesson series serves a different instructional purpose. For example, when teaching students to write about a narrow topic or focused thesis statement, the goal is to show them how to go from a large, broad subject to something smaller, more finite. Voice is the writer coming through the words, the sense that a real person is speaking to us and cares about the message. Students must hear how an expert discerns when, where, and how to incorporate the skill within his own writing. Provide opportunities for students to first recognize the skill in mentor text before expecting them to try it and apply it within their own writing. Organization is the internal structure of a piece of writing, the thread of central meaning, the pattern and sequence, so long as it fits the central idea. Other forms of writing assessment use checklists or rating scales. Sometimes sentence fluency may go on the back burner, except in poetry where students' attempts at fluency need to be recorded. This peer editing can help students learn about parts of their writing that was unclear, discover which parts an audience found exciting, and get some suggestions for other things to add. No one wants to be the "low example," and students whose work is chosen as the "high example" can't think they are already at the highest level and don't have improvements to make. They belong with Presentation. This way you can help students when they are in the middle of the writing process instead of after they are "done. Engage in trait-based writing conferences A conference is nothing more than a conversation. For example, rather than teaching different types of sentences, focus only on combining ideas into compound sentences. Think of it as black, white, and gray. In all modes of writing figurative language such as metaphors, similes and analogies articulate, enhance, and enrich the content. Download an editable rubric template. The key is to really understand the purpose the skill serves within writing. Think Aloud about how the excerpt impacts the reader's comprehension. This requires slowing down instruction"and expectations. Writing that is strong in Conventions has been proofread and edited with care. Define each level visually by hanging level-specific examples from the rubric. Even if our ideas, words, and sentences are vivid, precise, and well constructed, the writing will not be inviting to read unless it follows the guidelines of Presentation. Look for excerpts from chapter books and novels that exemplify a specific writing skill. In descriptive writing, strong Word Choice resulting in imagery, especially sensory, show-me writing, clarifies and expands Ideas. After all, students' writing doesn't improve by listening to the teacher. The Ideas are strong when the message is clear, not garbled. Which signs and billboards attract your attention? There are several ways to streamline the assessment process, and they all revolve around utilizing rubrics. Sentences vary in length, beginnings, structure, and style, and are so well crafted that the reader moves through the piece with ease. Although most teachers are familiar with rubrics, they may not be maximizing their efficiency. Mastering sentence fluency requires two skills"attention to sentences and fluency. Sentence Fluency Sentence Fluency is the rhythm and flow of the language, the sound of word patterns, the way in which the writing plays to the ear, not just to the eye. However, a 3-point rubric is often too simplistic. This includes precise nouns, action verbs, descriptive adjectives, and varied synonyms. Reading Rockets Reprints You are welcome to print copies or republish materials for non-commercial use as long as credit is given to Reading Rockets and the author s. Integrate mentor text Step 2 of a mini-lesson often includes revealing examples of the skill in action. When identifying a mini-lesson trigger, first consider the function of the writing skill. Identify the specific writing-time task students will execute that has them experimenting with the target skill. Successful writers do not "tell" readers things they already know; e. Regardless of the organizational method you choose, house individual lesson plans, resources, and writing samples within their broader trait categories.