

Grades K – 4 Holistic Writing Rubric

6 – Exceptional

- Contains clarity and focus
- Creative exploration of topic
- Strong beginning and conclusion
- Exceptional use of vocabulary
- Effective use of conventions with no or few errors in mechanics, usage, and sentence structure
- Clearly explains key ideas
- Well organized and coherently developed
- Relevant, supportive details

3 – Beginning Writer

- Broad or simplistic ideas
- Organization is inconsistent or ineffective
- Details not always placed effectively
- Overuse of particular words or misused vocabulary
- Limited control of conventions with significant errors
- Inadequate organization or development
- Limited word choice

5 – Experienced

- Relevant details
- Inviting beginning and satisfying closure
- Broad use of vocabulary
- Effective use of conventions with few errors in mechanics, usage, and sentence structure
- Generally well organized and coherently developed
- Conveys clear message
- Logical sequence of events

2 – Emergent

- Simplistic and unclear ideas and few, if any, details
- Sequencing of ideas that is often just a list
- Missing beginning and/or ending
- Repetitive, monotonous, and often misused words
- Little control of basic conventions
- Lacks a clear vision
- Weak organization or very little development
- Serious errors in mechanics, usage, sentences, or word choice

4 – Developing

- Ideas developing with clear presentation
- Relevant details are general or limited
- Recognizable beginning and ending, although one or both may be weak
- Somewhat varied sentence structure
- Control of standard conventions, although a wide range is not used
- Adequately organized and developed
- Some errors in mechanics, usage, or sentence structure
- Developing fluency
- Conveys complete thoughts in a logical sequence
- Use of simple, repetitive sentences

1 – Pre-Writer

- Lack of purpose or ideas and sequencing
- Extremely limited vocabulary
- Lack of coherent sentence structure
- Severe and frequent errors in conventions
- Random thoughts
- Lack of knowledge or discomfort with topic
- Communicates using pictures
- Random letters or symbols do not convey meaning