

Sample #4: Six-Trait Writing Rubric, Student-Friendly Version (Grade 3–8)

Criterion	Indicator	Rating	Rationale (use words and phrases from the <i>Rubric for Rubrics</i>)
Coverage/ Organization	1A: Covers the Right Content	5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The content represents the best thinking in the field, aligns directly with content standards, and has the “ring of truth.”
	1B: Criteria Are Well Organized	5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The number of criteria (traits) represents the complexity of writing; the details of each trait go together; and separating <i>Voice</i>, <i>Word Choice</i>, and <i>Sentence Fluency</i> is a good idea because each needs to be taught separately at the classroom level.
	1C: Number of Levels Fits Targets and Uses	5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Five levels are manageable, and there is a good rationale for the number of levels. For example, a “3” is a balance of strengths and weaknesses, a “4” is a balance of “5” and “3,” etc.
Clarity	2A: Levels Defined Well	5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This is a particular strength of this rubric. The descriptive detail makes it easy to match student writing to the appropriate level. There are many samples of student work to illustrate levels at various grades. There are versions in foreign languages. Obviously there are student-friendly versions, since this is one of them.
	2B: Levels Parallel	5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Indicators at each level have been lined up to make it easy to see how a feature develops across levels.