

Sample #2: K–5 Developmental Writing Scale

Criterion	Indicator	Rating	Rationale (use words and phrases from the <i>Rubric for Rubrics</i>)
Coverage/ Organization	1A: Covers the Right Content	3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Product Characteristics</i> makes little reference to ideas, organization, voice, and word choice before step 9. All of these important dimensions of effective writing are present all along, although not always conveyed through the formal written word. It might be helpful for teachers and students to recognize and track precursors to these dimensions.
	1B: Criteria Are Well Organized	4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There are two divisions: <i>Product Characteristics</i> and <i>Process Characteristics</i>. To encourage understanding of the features that make up quality writing, it might be helpful to divide <i>Product Characteristics</i> into “conventions” and “meaning” at early stages and into something more detailed, like “ideas,” “organization,” “voice,” “word choice,” and “conventions,” at later stages. This is especially true if students will “graduate” from the developmental continuum to a more formal rubric such as the 6 + 1 Trait™ Writing Assessment.
	1C: Number of Levels Fits Targets and Uses	4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This is a developmental continuum. Therefore, having a number of levels that stretch over multiple grade levels makes sense. It might be difficult to distinguish between steps 9 and 10. Also, in the box at the top of each page, it might be useful to indicate where students should be at the end of each grade level in order to be on track for meeting the criteria of step 10 at the end of fifth grade.
Clarity	2A: Levels Defined Well	4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conventions are clearly delineated between steps; other criteria of good writing, such as voice, are not. For example, what is the difference between “sense of voice is more consistent” (step 9) and “sense of voice is evident” (step 10)?
	2B: Levels Parallel	4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The general categories of <i>Product</i> and <i>Process</i> are parallel across levels, but some ingredients in these levels, such as voice, are missing.