

Figure 2 Generic grade six writing rubric

	4	3	2	1	0
Ideas and Content	The topic and main ideas are clear. Details and examples (e.g., facts, similes, metaphors, or comparisons) support the ideas.	The topic and ideas are clear, but there is not enough detail. The writing stays on topic but doesn't address minor parts of the assignment.	There is a very general topic, but the writing strays off topic or doesn't address major parts of the assignment.	The topic and ideas are unclear. It's hard to tell which information is most important. May be repetitious or disconnected thoughts with no main point.	
Organization	The writing has a catchy beginning to grab the reader's attention, a developed middle, and meaningful ending. The order of ideas makes sense. Transitions show how ideas connect.	The paper has a beginning, middle, and end. The order makes sense. Transitions are used, but some don't work well.	The paper has an attempt at an intro and conclusion. Some ideas seem out of order. Transitions need a lot of work.	There is no real introduction or conclusion. The ideas seem strung together in a loose fashion.	
Paragraphs	Paragraphs are properly indented and begin in the right spots. Each has one topic and has topic, supporting, and closing sentences.	Paragraphs are indented; some begin in the right spots and have topic, supporting, and closing sentences.	Paragraphs often begin in the wrong places; may not have topic sentences.	There is either one long paragraph or random paragraph breaks.	
Voice	The writing has personality. The writer cares about the topic and speaks right to the reader.	The writing seems sincere, but the author's personality fades in and out.	The paper could have been written by anyone. The writing hides the writer.	The writing is bland or sounds like the writer is annoyed or doesn't like the topic.	
Word Choice	Uses vivid words and phrases that help make the meaning clear. May include 5 senses words.	Words are ordinary, with a few attempts at descriptive words.	Words used are ordinary but generally correct.	The same words are used over and over, some incorrectly.	
Sentences	Sentences are clear and complete. Some are longer than others. They begin in different ways.	Sentences are usually complete. Some variety in beginnings and length.	Many poorly constructed sentences. Little variety in beginnings or length.	The paper is hard to read because of incomplete, run-on, and awkward sentences.	
Conventions	Few, if any, errors in spelling, punctuation, capitalization, grammar.	Spelling, punctuation and caps usually correct. Some grammar problems.	Errors are frequent enough to make the writing hard to understand.	Errors are so frequent they are distracting. The paper is almost impossible to read.	