

Student-Friendly Criteria for the Middle Grades

Name _____

Paper _____

Date _____

Instructions: (1) Read the paper all the way though. (2) Read each criteria item and enter "Y" for "yes"; "N" for "no"; "S" for "sort of". (3) Mark your total score in the space provided.

IDEAS

Interesting Things to Say

- ___ It all makes sense.
- ___ The writer knows this topic well.
- ___ The writer has included interesting details not everyone would think of.
- ___ The paper has a purpose.
- ___ Once you start reading, you won't want to stop.

Total for the trait of IDEAS _____

(Give 1 point for each "Y", ½ point for each "S" and 0 points for each "N")

ORGANIZATION

The Way it Goes Together

- ___ It starts out with a bang!
- ___ Everything ties together well.
- ___ It builds to the good parts.
- ___ You can follow it easily.
- ___ At the end it feels finished and makes you think.

Total for the trait of ORGANIZATION _____

(Give 1 point for each "Y", ½ point for each "S" and 0 points for each "N")

VOICE

Sounds Like You Talking

- ___ It sounds like a real person wrote it.
- ___ You can tell the writer cares about this topic.
- ___ This is what the writer really thinks.
- ___ The writer wants you to read this and feel something.
- ___ You can tell that the writer was thinking about the audience.

Total for the trait of VOICE _____

(Give 1 point for each "Y", ½ point for each "S" and 0 points for each "N")

WORD CHOICE

The Best Words For Your Ideas

- ___ This is the best way to say this.
- ___ The writer's words make pictures in your mind.
- ___ The writer uses words that are new ways to say everyday things.
- ___ The writer's verbs are powerful; the writer's nouns and adjectives are specific and precise.
- ___ Some of the words linger in your mind after you read them.

Total for the trait of WORD CHOICE _____

(Give 1 point for each "Y", ½ point for each "S" and 0 points for each "N")

SENTENCE FLUENCY

The Way it Sounds When You Read it Out Loud

- ___ The writer's sentences begin in different ways.
- ___ Some sentences are long; some are short.
- ___ It sounds good as you read it.
- ___ The writer's sentences have power and punch.
- ___ The writing flows easily from sentences to sentence.

Total for the trait of SENTENCE FLUENCY _____

(Give 1 point for each "Y", ½ point for each "S" and 0 points for each "N")

CONVENTIONS

Spelling, Punctuation, Grammar, Capitals, Etc.

- ___ The writer uses capitals correctly.
- ___ Periods, commas, exclamation marks, and quotation marks are in the right places.
- ___ Almost every word is spelled correctly.
- ___ The writer indented each paragraph.
- ___ The writer's spelling, punctuation, grammar, and capitalization make the paper easy to read and understand.

Total for the trait of CONVENTIONS _____

(Give 1 point for each "Y", ½ point for each "S" and 0 points for each "N")