

### Grade 8 ELA 7-Trait Writing Rubric

	<b>5</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>Comments</b>
<b>Ideas and Content</b>	Writing has a topic that is clear and focused. Holds the reader's attention with examples that elaborate on each supporting idea, and details that add to main topic.	Writing has a topic, but sometimes the writer loses track of his/her focus. Main ideas and support still need to be developed.	There is no clear or focused topic yet. The writer has not given strong supporting ideas or elaborated upon them.	
<b>Organization</b>	Writing is organized with a clear topic/introductory sentence/paragraph, 3 supporting ideas, elaborating examples, and a conclusion.	Writing does have a clear topic sentence and conclusion, but is missing at least 1 supporting idea or elaborating example.	Writing is missing more than 3 of these components.	
<b>Voice</b>	Writing is written with confidence and the writer's unique personality. No one else could have written this.	Writer's personality pokes through here and there, but writing is not unique to him/her.	Writing does not show writer's unique personality and includes more statements than description.	
<b>Word Choice</b>	Words are clear, descriptive, and paint a strong visual picture for the reader. Words show/explain the topic through description rather than just telling about it through statements.	Words are correct, but don't create a clear picture for the reader. Writer does more telling rather than showing.	Words are confusing. Some words are misused or vague and do not provide clear description of the writer's topic.	
<b>Sentence Fluency (flow)</b>	Writing is easy to read out loud, and sentences flow together using smooth transitions, and variety in length and structure.	Some sentences are smooth and natural, but others are not. Need stronger transitions and sentence variety.	Sentences do not blend together well and have minimal transitions or variety.	
<b>Conventions</b>	Less than 3 spelling, grammatical, or punctuation errors in the paragraph.	More than 5 spelling, grammatical, or punctuation errors.	Spelling, grammatical, and punctuation errors make the paragraph too difficult to read.	
<b>Writing Process (brainstorm/plan, draft, revise, edit, publish)</b>	All steps of writing process have been completed on time, and evidence of each step has been checked or included in final publish.	A few steps of the writing process are missing or have not been submitted for a check.	Multiple steps in the writing process have been left out and writer has not utilized the writing process.	