

STUDENT/SELF-EVALUATION RUBRICS FOR THE SIX TRAITS

Use the rubrics on pp. 78–84 to evaluate your own writing. If you have a strong paper, you will be able to answer “yes” to the questions in the first box. Be honest! If your answers are “no,” then go on to the next box. The questions in the second and third boxes will help you identify where your paper needs more work.

SIX TRAITS RUBRIC: IDEAS AND CONTENT

5 My Ideas Are Crystal Clear!

- ✓ Is my topic clearly focused—neither too broad nor too narrow—for a paper of its kind?
- ✓ Are my ideas original, interesting, and creative?
- ✓ Do I draw from personal experience or knowledge?
- ✓ Are my details insightful and well chosen? Or are they obvious, predictable, or clichéd—not good?
- ✓ Is my development of the topic thorough and logical? Have I anticipated and answered the reader's questions?
- ✓ Are my supporting details accurate and relevant? Does my every detail contribute to the whole?

3 Close—My Ideas Need a Little Polishing

- ✓ Could I develop my topic a little better? Do I make my readers work to figure out my purpose and predict how ideas will develop?
- ✓ Are my supporting details present but maybe too vague? Could they really illustrate the main idea or theme better?
- ✓ Do I refer to my own experience or knowledge but maybe fail to push beyond the obvious to more specific ideas?
- ✓ Are my ideas understandable but maybe not detailed, elaborated upon, or personalized? Do I need to work on understanding my topic or task more?
- ✓ Do I stray from the topic? Are my ideas too general? Do I force readers to rely on what they already know to make sense of the paper?

1 Hmm. What Am I Trying to Say?

- ✓ Have I forgotten to decide on a topic or main idea? Does my paper read like rough draft or brainstorming notes?
- ✓ Is my thesis a vague statement about the topic or a restatement of a prompt? Does it need more support, detail, or insight?
- ✓ Do I need to add information? Do I make my readers work too hard to make connections?
- ✓ Is my text rambling and repetitious? Are my ideas not developed enough? Is the paper too short?
- ✓ Does every idea and detail in my paper seem equally weighted? Do my ideas add up to a main idea, thesis, or theme?