

## 6-Trait Assessment for Beginning Writers

1 – Experimenting	2 – Emerging	3 – Developing	4 – Capable	5 – Experienced
<p><b>Ideas</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>___ Uses scribbles for writing</li> <li>___ Dictates labels or a story</li> <li>___ Shapes that look like letters</li> <li>___ Line forms that imitate text</li> <li>___ Writes letters randomly</li> </ul> <p><b>Organization</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>___ Ability to order or group not yet present</li> <li>___ No sense of beginning or end</li> <li>___ Connections between idea are confusing</li> </ul> <p><b>Voice</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>___ Communicates feelings with size, color, shape, line in drawing or letter imitation</li> <li>___ Work is similar to everyone else’s</li> <li>___ Unclear response to task</li> <li>___ Awareness of audience not present</li> </ul>	<p><b>Ideas</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>___ Some recognizable words present</li> <li>___ Label pictures</li> <li>___ Uses drawings that show detail</li> <li>___ Pictures are supported by some words</li> </ul> <p><b>Organization</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>___ No title (if requested)</li> <li>___ Experiments with beginnings</li> <li>___ Begins to group like words/pictures</li> <li>___ Transitions or evidence of sequencing are haphazard</li> </ul> <p><b>Voice</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>___ Hints of voice present in words and phrases</li> <li>___ Looks different from most others</li> <li>___ Energy/mood is present</li> <li>___ Treatment of topic predictable</li> <li>___ Audience is fuzzy – could be anybody, anywhere</li> </ul>	<p><b>Ideas</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>___ Attempts a story or to make a point</li> <li>___ Illustration supports the writing</li> <li>___ Meaning of the general idea is recognizable/understandable</li> <li>___ Some ideas clear but some are still fuzzy</li> </ul> <p><b>Organization</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>___ A title is present (if requested)</li> <li>___ Limited transitions present</li> <li>___ Beginning but no ending except “The End”</li> <li>___ Attempts at sequencing and transitions</li> </ul> <p><b>Voice</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>___ Expresses some predictable feelings</li> <li>___ Moments of individual sparkle, but then hides</li> <li>___ Repetition of familiar ideas reduces energy</li> <li>___ Awareness that the writing will be read by someone else</li> <li>___ Reader has limited connection to writer</li> </ul>	<p><b>Ideas</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>___ Writing tells a story or makes a point</li> <li>___ Illustration (if present) enhances the writing</li> <li>___ Idea is generally on topic</li> <li>___ Details are present but not developed (lists)</li> </ul> <p><b>Organization</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>___ An appropriate title is present (if requested)</li> <li>___ Attempts transitions from sentence to sentence</li> <li>___ Beginning works well and attempts an ending</li> <li>___ Logical sequencing</li> <li>___ Key ideas begin to surface</li> </ul> <p><b>Voice</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>___ Writing is individual and expressive</li> <li>___ Individual perspective becomes evident</li> <li>___ Personal treatment of a standard topic</li> <li>___ Writes to convey a story or idea to the reader</li> <li>___ Attempts non-standard point of view</li> </ul>	<p><b>Ideas</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>___ Presents a fresh/original idea</li> <li>___ Topic is narrowed and focused</li> <li>___ Develops one clear, main idea</li> <li>___ Uses interesting, important details for support</li> <li>___ Writer understands topic well</li> </ul> <p><b>Organization</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>___ An original title is present (if requested)</li> <li>___ Transitions connect main ideas</li> <li>___ The opening attracts</li> <li>___ An effective ending is tried</li> <li>___ Easy to follow</li> <li>___ Important ideas stand out</li> </ul> <p><b>Voice</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>___ Uses text to elicit a variety of emotions</li> <li>___ Takes some risks to say more than what is expected</li> <li>___ Point of view is evident</li> <li>___ Writes with a clear sense of audience</li> <li>___ Cares deeply about the topic</li> </ul>

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## 6-Trait Assessment for Beginning Writers

1 – Experimenting	2 – Emerging	3 – Developing	4 – Capable	5 – Experienced
<p><b>Word Choice</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>___ Writes letters in strings</li> <li>___ Imitates word patterns</li> <li>___ Pictures stand for words and phrases</li> <li>___ Copies environmental print</li> </ul> <p><b>Sentence Fluency</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>___ Mimics letters and words across the page</li> <li>___ Words stand along</li> <li>___ Patterns for sentences not in evidence</li> <li>___ Sentence sense not yet present</li> </ul> <p><b>Conventions</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>___ Writes letter strings (pre-phonetic: dmRxzz)</li> <li>___ Attempts to create standard letters</li> <li>___ Attempts spacing of words, letters, symbols or pictures</li> <li>___ Attempts to write left or right</li> <li>___ Attempts to write top/down</li> <li>___ Punctuation, capitalization, etc. no making sense, yet</li> <li>___ Student interpretation needed to understand text/pictures</li> </ul>	<p><b>Word Choice</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>___ Recognizable words</li> <li>___ Environmental words used correctly</li> <li>___ Attempts at phrases</li> <li>___ Functional language</li> </ul> <p><b>Sentence Fluency</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>___ Strings words together into phrases</li> <li>___ Attempts simple sentences</li> <li>___ Short, repetitive sentence patterns</li> <li>___ Dialogue present but not understandable</li> </ul> <p><b>Conventions</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>___ Attempts semi-phonetic spelling (MTR, UM, etc.)</li> <li>___ Uses mixed upper and lower case letters</li> <li>___ Uses spaces between letters and words</li> <li>___ Consistently writes left to right</li> <li>___ Consistently makes effective use of top to bottom spacing</li> <li>___ Random punctuation</li> <li>___ Nonstandard grammar is common</li> </ul>	<p><b>Word Choice</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>___ General or ordinary words</li> <li>___ Attempts new words but they don't always fit</li> <li>___ Big words used only to impress reader</li> <li>___ Relies on slang, clichés, or repetition</li> </ul> <p><b>Sentence Fluency</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>___ Uses simple sentences</li> <li>___ Sentences tend to begin the same</li> <li>___ Experiments with other sentence patterns</li> <li>___ Reader may have to reread to follow the meaning</li> <li>___ Dialogue present but needs interpretation</li> </ul> <p><b>Conventions</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>___ Uses phonetic spelling (MOSTR,HUMN,KLOSD, etc.) on personal words</li> <li>___ Spelling of high frequency words still spotty</li> <li>___ Uses capitals at the beginning of sentences</li> <li>___ Usually uses end punctuation correctly (.!?)</li> <li>___ Experiments with other punctuation</li> <li>___ Long paper may be written as one paragraph</li> <li>___ Attempts standard grammar</li> </ul>	<p><b>Word Choices</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>___ Uses favorite words correctly</li> <li>___ Experiments with new and different words with some success</li> <li>___ Tries to choose words for specificity</li> <li>___ Attempts to use descriptive words to create images</li> </ul> <p><b>Sentence Fluency</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>___ Simple and compound sentences present and effective</li> <li>___ Attempts complex sentences</li> <li>___ Not all sentences begin the same</li> <li>___ Sections of writing have rhythm and flow</li> </ul> <p><b>Conventions</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>___ Transitional spelling on less frequent words (MONSTUR HUMUN, CLOSED, etc.)</li> <li>___ Spelling of high frequency words usually correct</li> <li>___ Capitals at the beginning of sentences and variable use on proper nouns</li> <li>___ End punctuation is correct (.!?) and other punctuation is attempted (such as commas)</li> <li>___ Paragraphing variable but present</li> <li>___ Noun/pronoun agreement, verb tenses, subject/verb agreement</li> </ul>	<p><b>Word Choices</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>___ Everyday words used well</li> <li>___ Precise, accurate, fresh, original words</li> <li>___ Creates vivid images in a natural way</li> <li>___ Avoids repetition, clichés or vague language</li> <li>___ Attempts at figurative language</li> </ul> <p><b>Sentence Fluency</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>___ Consistently uses sentence variety</li> <li>___ Sentence structure is correct and creative</li> <li>___ Variety of sentence beginnings</li> <li>___ Natural rhythm, cadence and flow</li> <li>___ Sentences have texture which clarify the important idea</li> </ul> <p><b>Conventions</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>___ High frequency words are spelled correctly and very close on other words</li> <li>___ Capitals used for obvious proper nouns as well as sentence beginnings</li> <li>___ Basic punctuation is used correctly and/or creatively</li> <li>___ Indents consistently to show paragraphs</li> <li>___ Show control over standard grammar</li> </ul>

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