**6-Trait One Pager**

**Word Choice**

- **Word Choice** is precision in the use of words—wordsmithery. It is the love of language, a passion for words, combined with a skill in choosing words that create just the mood, impression, or word picture the writer wants to instill in the heart and mind of the reader.

5 Precise, vivid, natural language paints a strong, clear, and complete picture in the reader’s mind.
   - The writer’s message is remarkably clear and easy to interpret.
   - Phrasing is original—even memorable—yet the language is never overdone.
   - Lively verbs lend the writing energy and power.
   - Striking words or phrases linger in the writer’s memory, often prompting connections, memories, reflective thoughts, or insights.

3 The language communicates for the most part, it gets the job done.
   - Most words are correct and adequate, even if not striking.
   - A memorable phrase here or there strikes a spark, leaving the reader hungry for more.
   - Familiar words and phrases give the text an “old comfortable couch” kind of feel.
   - Attempts at colorful language are full of promise, even when they lack restraint.

1 The writer struggles with a limited vocabulary, searching for words or phrases to convey meaning—or over-writes as if trying to impress. The writing reflects more than one of these problems:
   - Vague words and phrases (She was nice... It was wonderful... The new budget had impact...) convey only the most general sorts of messages.
   - Redundancy inhibits clarity and creativity.
   - Clichés or jargonistic, inflated phrases weigh the text down.
   - Words are used incorrectly (The bus impelled into the hotel).
   - The reader has trouble grasping the writer’s intended message.

**Sentence Fluency**

- **Sentence Fluency** is finely crafted construction combined with a sense of rhythm and grace. It is achieved through logic, creative phrasing, parallel construction, alliteration, absence of redundancy, variety in sentence length and structure, and a true effort to create language that literally cries out to be spoken aloud.

5 An easy flow and rhythm combined with sentence sense and clarity make this text a delight to read aloud.
   - Sentences are well crafted, with a strong and varied structure that invites expressive oral reading.
   - Purposeful sentence beginnings show how each sentence builds on the one before.
   - The writing has cadence, as if the writer hears the beat in his or her head.
   - Sentences vary in both structure and length, making the reading pleasant and natural, never monotonous.
   - Fragments, if used, are style.

3 The text hums along with a steady beat.
   - Sentences are grammatical and fairly easy to read aloud, given a little rehearsal.
   - Some variation in length and structure enhances fluency.
   - Some purposeful sentence beginnings aid interpretation of the text.
   - Graceful, natural phrasing intermingles with more mechanical structure.

1 A fair interpretative oral reading of this text takes practice. The writing reflects more than one of these problems:
   - Irregular or unusual word patterns make it hard to tell where one sentence ends and the next begins.
   - Ideas are hooked together by numerous connectives (and... but... so then) to create one gappy, endless "sentence."
   - Short, choppy sentences bump the reader through the text.
   - Repetitive sentence patterns put the reader to sleep.
   - Transitional phrases are either missing or so overdone they become distracting.
   - The reader must often pause and reread for meaning.

**Conventions**

- **Conventions** almost anything a copy editor would attend to falls under the heading of conventions. This includes punctuation, spelling, grammar and usage, capitalization, and paragraphing—the spit and polish phase of preparing a document for publication. It does not (in this scoring guide) include layout, handwriting, or neatness.

5 The writer shows excellent control over a wide range of standard writing conventions and uses them with accuracy and (when appropriate) creatively and style to enhance meaning.
   - Errors are so few and so minor that a reader can easily overlook them unless searching for them specifically.
   - The text appears clean, edited, and polished.
   - Older writers (grade 6 and up) create text of sufficient length and complexity to demonstrate control of conventions appropriate for their age and experience.
   - The text is easy to mentally process; there is nothing to distract or confuse a reader.
   - Only light touch-ups would be needed to polish the text for publication.

3 The writer shows reasonable control over most writing conventions and applies them with fair consistency to create text that is adequately readable.
   - There are enough errors to distract an attentive reader somewhat; however, errors do not seriously impair readability or obscure meaning.
   - It is easy enough for an experienced reader to get through the text without stumbling, but the writing clearly needs editorial polishing.
   - Moderate editing would be required to get the text ready for publication.
   - The paper reads much like a rough draft.

1 The writer demonstrates limited control even over widely used writing conventions. The text reflects at least one of the following problems:
   - Errors are sufficiently frequent and/or serious as to be distracting; it is hard for the reader to focus on ideas, organization, or voice.
   - The reader may need to read once to decode, then again to interpret and respond to the text.
   - Extensive editing would be required to prepare the text for publication.

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*Adapted from Spandel and Stiggins, Creating Writers, 1997, Addison-Wesley/Lonman.*