Good Student Writing  
(Adapted from the Kirby-Liner Working Criteria)

1. Voice  
One human being talking to another  
Makes the reader believe  
Authentic  
Strong, recognizable imprint of the writer

2. Movement  
Words building/pull the reader along  
It goes somewhere with variety  
A sense of order

3. Light touch  
Writer doesn’t take himself/herself too seriously  
Even-tempered (esp. important in argument/persuasive)

4. Purposeful  
Important  
Has substance/says something  
Adds to our experience

5. Inventive  
Unique experience  
Something new/or something old in a new way

6. Sense of audience  
Makes contact with the reader  
Anticipates the reader’s needs  
Provides substance

7. Detail  
Concrete  
Selective  
Words that put the reader there

8. Rhythm  
Words, phrases, and sentences flow  
Sound effortless  
Sentences vary in structure and length

9. Form  
How it looks on the page  
What it looks like in print

10. Mechanics  
Observes conventions of spelling, punctuation, usage  
Enlightened control

*Some of these may seem to overlap, and some may seem very vague or abstract at first. However, as we examine student samples throughout the semester, you will often “hear” or “feel” these elements of good writing when they are present and/or when they are absent.