

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

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| 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.