

# VOICE

## **5** I'VE PUT MY PERSONAL STAMP ON THIS PAPER!

- My paper shines with personality.
- The writing is lively and engaging.
- I speak right to my readers.
- The writing rings with confidence.

## **3** WHAT I TRULY THINK AND FEEL SHOWS UP SOMETIMES.

- You might not laugh, cry or pound on the table.
- Right on the edge of finding its own voice.
- My personality pokes through here & there.
- Pleasant & friendly-cautious, though!

## **1** I'M NOT COMFORTABLE LETTING THE REAL ME SHOW THROUGH.

- It could be hard to tell who wrote this.
- I kept my feelings in check.
- Safe & careful-that's my paper.
- Audience? What audience?

# WORD

## CHOICE

**5**

*I picked just the right words to express my ideas & feelings.*

*Every word seems exactly right.*

- *Colorful, fresh & snappy-yet nothing's overdone.*
- *Accurate & precise: that's me!*
- *Vivid, energetic verbs enliven every paragraph.*

**3**

*It might not tweak your imagination, but hey-it gets the message across.*

*It's functional, but it's not a stretch for me.*

- *O.K., so there's a cliché here and there.*
- *You'll find some originality, too!*
- *I might have over-utilized my thesaurus...*

**1**

*My reader is likely to ask, "Huh?"*

*I'm a victim of vague wording and fuzzy phrasing.*

- *It's hard to picture what I'm talking about.*
- *Maybe I misused a word or two...*
- *Some redundant phrases might be redundant.*

# IDEAS AND CONTENT

## **5** IT'S CLEAR, FOCUSED, & JAM-PACKED WITH DETAILS.

- You can tell I know a LOT about this topic.
- My topic is small enough to handle.
- Every point is clear.
- The paper "shows"- It doesn't "tell."

## **3** IT HAS ITS INTRIGUING MOMENTS, BUT IT COULD USE SOME DETAILS.

- I know just enough to write.
- Some of my details are too general.
- My topic might be a little too big to handle.
- Now and then it grabs your attention.

## **1** I'M JUST FIGURING OUT WHAT I WANT TO SAY.

- I just don't know enough about this topic yet.
- It's hard to picture anything.
- I'm still thinking on paper-looking for an idea.

# ORGANIZATION

## **5** CLEAR & COMPELLING DIRECTION MAKES READING A BREEZE.

- My beginning gets you hooked.
- Every detail is in the right place.
- You won't feel lost.
- My paper ends at just the right spot-& it leaves you thinking.

## **3** YOU CAN FOLLOW IT PRETTY WELL.

- I have a beginning.
- Most details fit where I put them.
- The paper has an ending, but it needs some work.

## **1** WHERE ARE WE HEADED?

- You could get dizzy trying to follow this.
- Beginning? Oops...
- My ideas seem scrambled, jumbled, confusing-even to me.
- It doesn't have a real ending. It just stops.

# SENTENCE FLUENCY

## **5** MY SENTENCES ARE CLEAR, VARIED, AND A TREAT TO READ ALOUD!!

- Go ahead-read it aloud. No rehearsal necessary!
- Sentence variety is my middle name.
- Deadwood has been cut.
- Smooth as a ski run in December.

## **3** MY SENTENCES ARE CLEAR AND READABLE.

- Pretty smooth & natural-with just a bump or two.
- Some sentences could merge; some need to be cut in two.
- A little deadwood-but it doesn't bury the good ideas!
- Yeah, I got into a rut with those sentence beginnings.

## **1** I HAVE TO ADMIT, IT'S A CHALLENGE TO READ ALOUD!

- You might have to stop or re-read to make sense of this.
- It's hard to tell where one sentence stops and the next begins.
- Bumpity, bump, bump, bump...

# CONVENTIONS

## 5 I MADE SO FEW ERRORS, IT WOULD BE A SNAP GETTING THIS READY TO PUBLISH!

- *Caps are in the right places.*
- *Great punctuation-grammar, too.*
- *Spelling to knock your socks off.*
- *Paragraphs are indented-you gotta love it.*

## 3 SOME BOTHERSOME MISTAKES SHOW UP WHEN I READ CAREFULLY.

- *Spelling's correct on SIMPLE words.*
- *Caps are mostly there.*
- *Grammar's O.K., though not award-winning.*
- *Yeah, you might stumble over my innovative punctuation.*
- *Reads like a first draft, all right.*

## 1 READ IT ONCE TO DECODE, THEN AGAIN FOR MEANING.

- *Mistakes make the going rough.*
- *I've forgotten some CAPS-otherS aren't Needed.*
- *Look out four spelling mysteaks.*
- *Want the truth? I didn't spend much time editing.*