

“CHARACTER SKETCH” 6 TRAITS OF WRITING CHECKLIST



Writer: Check off (✓) each aspect as you verify your writing.

Peer: Assess each aspect on a scale from 1 to 5.

1= not yet 2= emerging 3= developing 4= effective 5= strong

1. Ideas and Content

Ideas make up the content of the piece of writing – the heart of the message.

- Gives a deep analysis of the main character (you really understand who that person is, what made him/her who they are, and how he/she has changed over the course of the story) ① ② ③ ④ ⑤
- Gives many pertinent supporting details to support your analysis ① ② ③ ④ ⑤
- Develops the topic in an interesting way ① ② ③ ④ ⑤

2. Organization

Organization is the internal structure of the piece, the logical pattern of the ideas.

- Uses an inviting beginning that "hooks" the reader ① ② ③ ④ ⑤
- Presents ideas in a logical manner (doesn't jump around from idea to idea) ① ② ③ ④ ⑤
- Uses smooth transitions to help the ideas flow together ① ② ③ ④ ⑤
- Concluded the paper in a logical way ① ② ③ ④ ⑤

3. Voice

Voice is the soul of the piece. It's what makes the writer's style singular, as his or her feelings and convictions come out through the words.

- Uses language that brings the character to life for the reader ① ② ③ ④ ⑤
- Shows that the writer is engaged, invested and interested in this writing assignment ① ② ③ ④ ⑤

4. Word Choice

Word choice is at its best when it includes the use of rich, colourful, precise language that moves and enlightens the reader.

- Uses words that are correct and descriptive ① ② ③ ④ ⑤
- Uses words correctly ① ② ③ ④ ⑤
- Avoids repetition ① ② ③ ④ ⑤

5. Sentence Fluency

Sentence fluency is the flow of the language, the sound of word patterns – the way the writing plays to the ear, not just to the eye.

- Gives the writing an easy flow and rhythm ① ② ③ ④ ⑤
- Uses complete sentences ① ② ③ ④ ⑤
- Uses different sentence structures ① ② ③ ④ ⑤

6. Writing Conventions

Conventions represent the piece's level of correctness – the extent to which the writer uses grammar and mechanics with precision.

- Uses correct punctuation ① ② ③ ④ ⑤
- Uses correct spelling, even on difficult words ① ② ③ ④ ⑤
- Uses capitalization correctly ① ② ③ ④ ⑤

Writer:

What I want feedback on:

Peer feedback:

Peer's Signature: _____