

## “ME, MYSELF AND WHY” 6 TRAITS OF WRITING CHECKLIST



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

**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.

- I describe who I am, and I explain what has influenced who I have become in depth. ① ② ③ ④ ⑤
- I give many pertinent supporting details to support my analysis ① ② ③ ④ ⑤
- I develop 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.

- I present ideas in a logical manner (I don't jump around from idea to idea) ① ② ③ ④ ⑤
- I use smooth transitions to help the ideas flow together 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.

- You can see my personality in my way of writing ① ② ③ ④ ⑤
- You can tell that I have put my heart into 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.

- I use words that are highly descriptive ① ② ③ ④ ⑤
- I use words correctly ① ② ③ ④ ⑤
- I avoid 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.

- I give the writing an easy flow and rhythm ① ② ③ ④ ⑤
- I use complete sentences ① ② ③ ④ ⑤
- I use 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.

- I use correct punctuation ① ② ③ ④ ⑤
- I use correct spelling, even on difficult words ① ② ③ ④ ⑤
- I use capitalization correctly ① ② ③ ④ ⑤
- I use correct grammar (verbs, sentence structure, etc.) ① ② ③ ④ ⑤

**Writer:**

**What I like about my writing:**

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**Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_

**WRITING: EXPRESSION PAPER**  
**Me, Myself and Why: What makes me who I am?**

Criteria	Range of Competency				
	Level 5	Level 4	Level 3	Level 2	Level 1
<b>Purpose</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ The writer takes a confident stand on the issue.</li> <li>◆ She/He supports and clarifies her/his position with convincing explanations and selective evidence from various sources.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ The writer takes a firm stand on the issue.</li> <li>◆ She/he supports and makes her/his position understandable with appropriate evidence from sources provided.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ The writer takes a stand on the issue.</li> <li>◆ She/he offers some evidence to support her/his position from provided sources.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ The writer offers an opinion on the issue.</li> <li>◆ Evidence offered to support opinion is confusing and/or unrelated.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ The writer attempts to respond to the issue, however, the position is uncertain. No supporting evidence is offered.</li> </ul>
<b>Organisation</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ The writing has a dynamic lead with a strong sense of direction from beginning to end.</li> <li>◆ The writing flows smoothly and gives power to the topic.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ The writing has an interesting lead with a clear sense of direction.</li> <li>◆ The writing is easy to follow and it stays on topic.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ The writing has a logical structure.</li> <li>◆ It is fairly easy to follow and connects to the topic for the most part.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ The writing wanders.</li> <li>◆ It does not have a sense of structure and it strays from the topic.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ The writing is aimless and disorganised.</li> </ul>
<b>Development of ideas</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ It is evident that ideas were enriched through reflection.</li> <li>◆ Develops the topic in a fresh and original way.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ It is evident that ideas became more focused through reflection.</li> <li>◆ Develops the topic in an interesting way.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ There is evidence of reflection.</li> <li>◆ Stays in control of the topic.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ The ideas are loosely developed.</li> <li>◆ Wanders from the topic.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ Ideas are confusing and/or trite.</li> </ul>
<b>Voice</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ The writer's voice is compelling and engaging.</li> <li>◆ It respects the concerns of intended audience and purpose.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ The writer's voice is confident and sincere.</li> <li>◆ It is aware of the intended audience and purpose.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ The writer's voice emerges on occasion.</li> <li>◆ The writer is aware, at times, of intended audience and purpose.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ The writer appears impersonal and uninvolved.</li> <li>◆ She/He fails to connect with intended audience or purpose.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ The writer seems disconnected.</li> <li>◆ She/He is uninvolved with audience or purpose.</li> </ul>
<b>Conventions</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ Adherence to revision and editing enhances communication.</li> <li>◆ Few errors, if any, are minor.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ The attention given to revision and editing improves communication.</li> <li>◆ Errors may be frequent, but minor.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ There is some attention given to revision and editing.</li> <li>◆ Frequent errors are minor, but they are distracting.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ Insufficient attention given to revision or editing interferes with communication.</li> <li>◆ Errors are frequent and varied.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ No attention is given to revision or editing.</li> <li>◆ Systemic and multiple errors make the writing difficult to read.</li> </ul>