

M.O.V.I.E.S. WRITING RUBRIC - RESEARCH WRITING

Mechanics & Presentation

6 *I know my writing conventions (grammar, spelling, capitalization, punctuation), and I edited this text. In addition, I used subtitles, bullets, lists of sources, a table of contents, sidebars and/or other graphic devices to enhance layout and readability.*

- This text is thoroughly edited.
- My layout is eye-catching - and it helps you get my main idea.
- Important information stands out!

3/4 *I'm not editor of the year, but I know my basic conventions (grammar, spelling, capitalizations, punctuation) and I rarely make glaring errors. I also used some subtitles, bullets, lists of sources, a table of contents, sidebars and/or other graphic devices to enhance layout and readability.*

- My conventions are mostly correct.
- The layout is clear and pleasant - not a WOW though.

1 *I do not know my writing conventions (grammar, spelling, capitalization, punctuation) all that well, and besides, I may not have had time yet to edit this paper. In addition, I rarely use subtitles, bullets, lists of sources, a table of contents, sidebars and/or other graphic devices to enhance layout and readability.*

- Where's my red pen? This is full of mistakes.
- This layout is confusing.
- My reader will never figure out my main point.

Organization

6 *I organized this paper so you could easily follow my thinking and pick out the main point I was trying to make.*

- My introduction will catch your eye!
- My main idea really stands out.
- Details go together.
- Wow! What an ending!

3/4 *My main ideas might not always stand out, but you can follow my thinking if you read carefully.*

- You could miss my main point if you didn't pay attention.
- Uh-oh, you might need to read this twice to follow it.

1 *My paper really is not organized yet.*

- An introduction? Heck - I just started in.
- What does the reader need to know first? Beats me!
- I'm not sure what goes with what - help!
- An ending? I just stopped.

Voice & Tone

6 *If I was writing for a general audience, I let my enthusiasm for the topic shine through. If I was writing a technical piece, though, I kept the voice in check so it wouldn't be distracting.*

- You can tell I like this topic.
- You can also tell I care about the audience.

3/4 *My voice and tone are sincere and pleasant; the tone is appropriate for the topic and audience.*

- The tone is OK.
- Is this the right tone for this audience? I think so...
- This topic isn't too exciting, is it?

1 *I'm not wild about this topic, and I'm not sure who my audience is, for that matter. So is the voice right? Does it matter all that much?*

- I feel bored. Maybe I sound bored, too.
- Maybe I sound too technical - or not technical enough.
- What's the right tone for this audience?

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Ideas & Development

6 *My paper makes sense. I focus on an important question and provide all the information needed to answer that question.*

- I have a main point!
- I really know this topic well.
- I checked out my sources.

3/4 *My paper gives readers general, basic information on my primary topic.*

- Pretty clear.
- Some good research - some guesses.
- I need more information.
- I'm zeroing in on my main idea.

1 *I'm not completely sure yet what I want this paper to be about.*

- What's my topic?
- I still need to do lots of research.
- This paper won't teach you much - yet.

Effective Word Choice

6 *I tried to pick words that would make my meaning clear, especially when I had complicated or technical ideas to explain.*

- Words are used correctly.
- Important terms are defined.
- You might learn some new words.

3/4 *I think most of my words are used correctly and that they make my general message clear.*

- Some words are clear.
- Some are too general or technical.
- I don't need to define everything - do I?

1 *I have one of two problems: (1) I barely know this subject and I don't have the vocabulary to write about it, or (2) my writing is so technical and hard to penetrate that no one but me can understand it!*

- I have a problem.
- I don't know the language of this topic.
- I made it so technical, you'll scream!

Sentence Fluency

6 *My sentences are well built, clear, and thoughtfully structured.*

- Clear, straightforward wording.
- Every sentence makes sense.
- Wordiness? I got rid of it.

3/4 *My sentences are clear and (for the most part) grammatical.*

- Sure, it's a little wordy here and there - is that a big deal?
- I go from long and gangly to short and choppy.

1 *Some of my sentences are unclear, ungrammatical, or both.*

- I noticed some grammatical errors.
- Some of these sentences might not even be sentences.
- This is sure hard to read!