

CONVENTIONS

5: The writer demonstrates a good grasp of grade appropriate standard writing conventions (grammar, capitalization, punctuation, usage, spelling, sentence structure, paragraphing) and uses them effectively to enhance readability. Errors tend to be so few and minor the reader can easily skim right over them unless specifically searching for them.

- Grammar and usage are correct and contribute to clarity and style.
- Internal punctuation and external punctuation contain few, if any, errors and guide the reader through the text.
- Spelling is almost always correct, even on more difficult words.
- Sentence structures are varied and add to the stylistic effect.
- Capitalization is correct.

3: The writer shows reasonable control over a limited range of grade appropriate standard writing conventions. The writer handles some conventions well but may make some errors that do not significantly distract the reader.

- Usage and grammar are almost always correct.
- External punctuation is almost always correct; grade appropriate internal punctuation is present.
- Spelling is usually correct on high frequency words, and some more difficult words may be misspelled.
- Sentences are generally structured correctly and show some variety; an occasional run-on or fragment is present.
- Capitalization is almost always correct.

1: Errors in grade appropriate spelling, punctuation, usage and grammar, capitalization, sentence structure and/or paragraphing repeatedly distract the reader and make the text difficult to read. More than one of the following problems is likely to be evident:

- Errors in grammar and usage are very noticeable and interfere with meaning.
- Punctuation is often missing or incorrect.
- Spelling errors are frequent, even on common words.
- Sentence structure is seriously flawed; run-ons and fragments may impede meaning.
- Capitalization is incorrect or missing.