

While you are reading the student's IMAGINATIVE AUTOBIOGRAPHY, you are encouraged to reflect on these six writing traits:

Ideas & Content:

- Are the ideas fully developed and clearly presented?
- Does the writing tell a story?
- Are there details that help create a picture of the student's real experiences or make the student's imagined experiences seem real?

Organization:

- Does the organization make sense?
- Does the writing follow a specific organizational strategy such as moving through the information chronologically or thematically?
- Does the order of the writing and your paragraphs move the reader through the text?

Sentence Fluency:

- Are the structures of the sentences varied?
- Does the student mix short and long sentences to enhance the rhythm of the writing?
- Do the sentences flow smoothly?
- When you read the student's writing aloud, does it sound as good as when you read it to yourself?

Conventions:

- Has the student tended to the mechanical errors that trip up readers (remember CUPS: capitalization, word usage, punctuation, and spelling)?
- Does the writing avoid sentence fragments and run-ons?
- Do the paragraph breaks make sense?
- Does the writing suggest that the student has checked the writing for careless errors and has used his or her best proofreading skills?

Word Choice:

- Does the writing show care was taken with varying word choice so as to avoid repetition?
- Has the student made a point of not being too informal in his or her writing (words or phrases like "Well," "You know," "Ginormous," or "It rocks" are fine for casual conversation, but not for school assignments)?
- Is there evidence that the student stretched his or her vocabulary a bit by choosing interesting words, but ones that still fit who s/he is and how s/he writes?

Voice:

- Does the writing have energy?
- Does it seem that everything that is written has a purpose?
- Does it say, "Read me! I have focus and character. I'm not just a list of experiences or a rambling account; I am filled with important stories told with engaging details"?
- Does it scream "This is _____ (insert student's name here)!"?