

# Middle Years 5 - 8

Years 5 and 6 – Up to 750 words

Years 7 and 8 – Up to 1,000 words

	<b>3</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Meaning and Structure</b>	An original and relevant main idea, well supported by a clear structure and sequence. Strong introduction and developed body. Ending is effective and provides a sense of completion. Author’s purpose is clear and compelling.	Main idea is clear and relevant. Writing has a logical flow and sense of purpose. Structure includes a clear beginning, body and ending with adequate sequencing of details.	Main idea is unclear or irrelevant. Structure may be hard to follow. Author wanders. May be repetitive or missing key details and clues of transitions. Purpose unclear. Lacks depth.
<b>Creativity</b>	Imagination, creativity and individuality shine through. Creative and original ideas surprise the reader.	Creative ideas, details and descriptions contribute to reader’s enjoyment.	Some creative ideas included.
<b>Language Use</b> - <b>vocabulary, voice, style and sentence structure</b>	Author’s voice is strong and engaging. Sentence structure is varied and complex. Precise, appropriate, and sometimes, memorable word choices.	Author’s voice is individual and appropriate. Sentences vary in length and read smoothly. Some language features and patterns used for emphasis. Word choices enhance ideas and cohesion.	Author’s voice is undefined, passive or hard to follow. Lacking complex sentence structures. Limited vocabulary.
<b>Conventions</b> - <b>grammar, spelling, punctuation</b>	Strong command of all conventions evidenced in writing.  0 - 1 errors.	Mostly correct use of all conventions.  2 - 3 errors.	In places, weak control of conventions interferes with smooth reading.  4 or more errors.
<b>Competition Guidelines</b>	Writing strongly reflects competition theme and guidelines. Close to word limit without going over.	Writing mostly adheres to the competition theme and guidelines. Close to word limit without going over.	Weak connection to competition theme and guidelines. Significantly over, or under, word limit.