

## ***The Five Qualities of Effective Writing***

While different teachers will give students different grading rubrics, effective writing always comes down to these five qualities.

Good writing is . . .

### **Interesting and Thoughtful**

- Read about, research, and discuss your topic so that you can come up with interesting ideas.
- Don't pick the easiest topic or the first ideas that come to your mind.
- Think and ask questions.

### **Focused**

- Feel free to explore many ideas. Then make choices and decide what your main point and supporting points will be.
- In a paragraph, your topic sentence should state your main point. Everything in your paragraph should connect to that main point.
- In an essay, your thesis statement should state the main point for your whole essay, and each paragraph should begin with a topic sentence that directly supports the thesis.
  - When revising, you may need to improve or change your thesis or topic sentences.
  - Or you might need to improve or change information in the body of one or more paragraphs so that everything stays focused on the main point.

### **Developed**

- Give details, examples, research, comparisons, quotes, and explanations.
- Your reading audience may not be in the same room with you, so you must figure out what your audience will need from you and give the audience the necessary information.
- Your goal is to make your point clear AND interesting, so go beyond the bare minimum when supplying information.

### **Organized**

- The Ideas should flow in a logical order.
- Sometimes writers need to reorganize ideas, delete ideas, or add transitions to improve the flow of their writing.
- The goal is to avoid a feeling of “jumping around.”

### **Clear**

- The sentences in the final version need to be polished.
- Check spelling, capitalization, grammar, and style.
- Read your writing aloud or ask someone to read it aloud to you. You are more likely to find errors if you carefully hear your paragraph/essay read aloud.