

# Student-Friendly Scoring Guide: Conventions

The mechanical correctness of the piece. Correct use of conventions (spelling, capitalization, punctuation, paragraphing, and grammar and usage) guides the reader through text easily.

6	↑	HIGH	<b>6</b>	<b>EXPERT</b>	<p>My piece proves I can use a range of conventions with skill and creativity. It is ready for its intended audience.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• My spelling is strong. I've spelled all or nearly all the words accurately.</li><li>• I've used punctuation creatively and correctly and begun new paragraphs in the right places.</li><li>• I've used capital letters correctly throughout my piece, even in tricky places.</li><li>• I've taken care to apply standard English grammar and usage.</li></ul>
			<b>5</b>	<b>WELL-DONE</b>	
4	↑	MIDDLE	<b>4</b>	<b>ALMOST THERE</b>	<p>My writing still needs editing to correct problems in one or more conventions. I've stuck to the basics and haven't tried challenging conventions.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• I've misspelled words that I use all the time, as well as complex words that I don't use as often.</li><li>• My punctuation is basically strong. I should review it one more time. I indented some of the paragraphs, but not all of them.</li><li>• I've correctly used capital letters in obvious places (such as the word <i>I</i>), but not in others.</li><li>• Even though my grammar and usage are not 100 percent correct, my audience should be able to read my piece.</li></ul>
			<b>3</b>	<b>MAKING STRIDES</b>	
2	↑	LOW	<b>2</b>	<b>ON MY WAY</b>	<p>The problems I'm having in conventions make this piece challenging to read, even for me! I've got lots of work to do before it's ready for its intended audience.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Extensive spelling errors make my piece difficult to read and understand.</li><li>• I haven't punctuated or paragraphed the piece well, which is necessary to guide the reader.</li><li>• My use of capital letters is so inconsistent it's distracting.</li><li>• I need to clean up the piece considerably in terms of grammar and usage.</li></ul>
			<b>1</b>	<b>GETTING STARTED</b>	