

Student-Friendly Scoring Guide: Voice

The tone and tenor of the piece—the personal stamp of the writer, which is achieved through a strong understanding of purpose and audience.

6	↑	HIGH	6 EXPERT	<p>I've come up with my own "take" on the topic. I had my audience and purpose clearly in mind as I wrote and presented my ideas in an original way.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• My piece is expressive, which shows how much I care about my topic.• The purpose for this piece is clear, and I've used a tone and tenor that are appropriate for that purpose.• There is no doubt in my mind that the reader will understand how I think and feel about my topic.• I've expressed myself in some new, original ways.
			5 WELL-DONE	
4	↑	MIDDLE	4 ALMOST THERE	<p>My feelings about the topic come across as uninspired and predictable. The piece is not all that expressive, nor does it reveal a commitment to the topic.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• In a few places, my authentic voice comes through, but only in a few.• My purpose for writing this piece is unclear to me, so the tone and tenor feel "off."• I've made little effort to connect with the reader; I'm playing it safe.• This piece sounds like lots of others on this topic. It's not very original.
3			3 MAKING STRIDES	
2	↑	LOW	2 ON MY WAY	<p>I haven't thought at all about my purpose or audience for the piece, and therefore, my voice falls flat. I'm pretty indifferent to the topic and it shows.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• I've put no energy into this piece.• My purpose for writing this piece is a mystery to me, so I'm casting about aimlessly.• Since my topic isn't interesting to me, chances are, my piece won't be interesting to the reader. I haven't thought about my audience.• I have taken no risks. There is no evidence that I find this topic interesting or care about it at all.
1			1 GETTING STARTED	