

Teacher-Friendly Scoring Guide for the Ideas Trait

The ideas trait reflects the piece's content: its central message and details that support that message.



3 ESTABLISHED

The writing makes sense and is understandable without help from the writer.

- The text makes sense even without pictures.
- The writing has a focused, specific idea.
- There is simple elaboration through one or more details.

2 EXPANDING

The writing makes sense in a general way with some explanation needed for the reader to understand the writer's message.

- Pictures and words combine to create the idea.
- The idea of the piece is fairly general, though understandable.
- There is an attempt at detail and elaboration in the pictures and/or text; for instance, there may be labels to clarify pictures.

1 EMERGENT

The writing does not make sense without an explanation by the writer.

- The pictures and words/letters are not understandable on their own.
- The piece may be a random collection of pictures and/or letters.
- The writing and/or pictures are not developed; the piece may be too short.