

What is good writing?

Writing Consultant: Melina Nazarian

HOW TO REALIZE THAT A PIECE OF WRITING IS A GOOD ONE?

Just READ it!

WHY IS IT A GOOD PIECE OF WRITING?

Here things get more complicated!!!

CHARACTERISTICS OF A GOOD WRITING

- ✓ **IDEAS:** interesting and important
- ✓ **ORGANIZATION:** logical and effective
- ✓ **VOICE:** individual and appropriate
- ✓ **WORD CHOICE:** specific and memorable
- ✓ **SENTENCE FLUENCY:** smooth and expressive
- ✓ **CONVENTIONS:** correct and communicative

IDEAS

- ✦ An important **main idea**
- ✦ Interesting **details**
- ✦ “**Showing,**” not just telling
- ✦ A **clear** and meaningful **purpose**
- ✦ Something **unusual** or **surprising** that **works**



ORGANIZATION

- ❖ Catches the **audience's attention** at the start
- ❖ Feels **finished** at the end; makes the audience **think**
- ❖ Arranged in the **best order**
- ❖ Spends the **right amount of time** on each part
- ❖ **Easy to follow** from part to part



VOICE

- The author **cares** about the **topic**
- Strong **feelings**; honest statements
- **Individual**, authentic, and original
- Displays a definite and well developed **personality**
- **Appropriate** tone for purpose and audience



WORD CHOICE

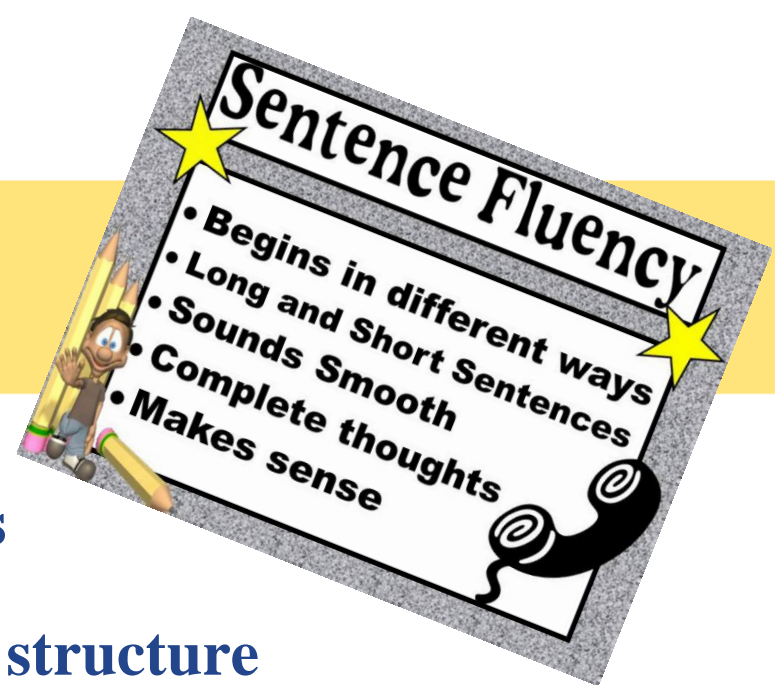
WORD CHOICE



- ☀ **Strong verbs** that tell how actions are performed
- ☀ **Adjectives** and **adverbs** that make things **specific**
- ☀ **Words** and **phases** you can **remember**
- ☀ **Words** and **phases** used **accurately** and **effectively**
- ☀ **Appropriate** language for **purpose** and **audience**

SENTENCE FLUENCY

- ❑ Variety in sentence **beginnings**
- ❑ Variety in sentence **length** and **structure**
- ❑ Easy to read **expressively**; sounds great read **aloud**
- ❑ Rhythm, rhyme, alliteration, and other “**sound**” **effects**
- ❑ Sentences **structured** so they are **easy** to understand



CONVENTIONS

- “Outside” punctuation
- “Inside” punctuation
- Capitalization
- Paragraphing
- Spelling

CONVENTIONS

- ✎ Did I leave spaces between words?
- ✎ Did I use a title?
- ✎ Did I use periods or question marks?
- ✎ Did I use capital letters in the right places?
- ✎ Is it easy to read my spelling?
- ✎ Could another person read my paper?



TO SUM UP

A good effective writing:

- Ⓜ Has a clearly defined purpose
- Ⓜ Makes a definite point
- Ⓜ Supports that point with specific information
- Ⓜ The information is clearly connected and arranged
- Ⓜ The words are appropriate, and the sentences are concise, emphatic, and correct

HOW TO DEVELOP YOUR WRITING SKILLS

Good writing is the result of much practice and hard work.

This means that the ability to write well is **not a gift that some people are born with, not a privilege extended to only a few.**



If you're willing to work, you can improve your writing.

*Good Writing
is supposed to evoke
sensations in the reader, not the
fact that it's raining, but the
feeling of being rained upon.*

- E. L. Doctorow

Chores! Chores! Chores! Chores are boring! Scrubbing toilets, cleaning sinks, and washing bathtubs take up a lot of my time and are not fun at all.

Toilets! When you're scrubbing toilets make sure they are not stinky. I've scrubbed one before and I was lucky it didn't stink. I think toilets are one of the hardest things to scrub in the bathroom because it is hard to get up around the rim.

Sinks are one of the easiest things to clean in the bathroom because they have no rims and they are small. I have cleaned one before and it was pretty easy.

Bathtubs, ever washed one? They are big, they are deep, and it is hard to get up around the sides. The bathtub is the hardest, I think, to wash in the bathroom.

All chores are boring, especially making my bed. Cleaning my room is OK because I have to organize, and I like organizing. Dusting is the worst: dust, set down, pick up, dust, set down. There are so many things to dust, and it's no fun.

Chores aren't the worst but they're definitely not the best!

“Do what you love,
and
love what you do!”



REFERENCE LIST

What is good writing?. (n.d.). Retrieved from <http://www.open.edu/openlearn/history-the-arts/culture/literature-and-creative-writing/what-good-writing/content-section-0>

Peha, S. (n.d.). *What is good writing?.* Retrieved from [http://www.ttms.org/PDFs/1 What is Good Writing v001 \(Full\).pdf](http://www.ttms.org/PDFs/1%20What%20is%20Good%20Writing%20v001%20(Full).pdf)

Nordquist, R. (n.d.). *What are the characteristics of good writing?.* Retrieved from <http://grammar.about.com/od/yourwriting/a/characteristics.htm>