

Use this checklist to evaluate your writing. This checklist is organized according to the five traits, domains, or characteristics of good writing. Click on MY Tutor® for in-depth analysis, revision tips, examples and strategies to improve your writing prior to submission.

### **FOCUS & MEANING**

- I have read the writing topic and identified my audience and purpose.
- My writing focuses on a specific experience or event.
- I stay focused on the topic or task throughout my writing.

### **CONTENT & DEVELOPMENT**

- My writing contains an engaging setting by adding specific (who, what, where, when), and descriptive details (sensory details for the reader to picture the story).
- My writing includes a detailed plot: introduction, rising action, climax (crisis), falling action and resolution (denouement).
- I created realistic characters by adding dialogue to show the characters' thoughts and to add suspense.

### **ORGANIZATION**

- My story has an exciting beginning. I set the mood by describing how the setting looks, feels, sounds, or smells.
- I present the events of my story in a logical order, building effectively to the climax.
- I added transitions to show how events are connected. I have used an inviting introduction and a strong conclusion.
- My story has a creative ending. I added details such as how the problem was solved, characters' feelings, and what happened next.

### **LANGUAGE USE & STYLE**

- I varied the lengths of my sentences so that I have both long and short sentences.
- I have added details to describe how the nouns (people, places, and things) look, sound, feel, smell, or act.

- I replaced weak verbs (for example, is, got, went) with strong verbs (for example, sat, sing, jump, dart, cook, clean, sing, dance).
- I added specific sensory details to help my reader experience what the character(s) in my story experience.
- My character's dialogue sounds realistic to their specific actions.

## GRAMMAR & CONVENTIONS

- I have read my essay out loud (to yourself) so that I can hear my mistakes and correct them.

I will try to make my reader SMILE by checking:

- Sentences:** Each sentence has a subject and a verb (an action).
- Marks:** End each sentence with a **punctuation mark**.
- Indents:** Indent when you begin a new paragraph.
- Letters:** Start each sentence with a **capital letter**.
- Editor:** I have used MY Editor as a final check for possible errors in mechanics, style, punctuation and spelling.