

# Writing Domains and Definitions

## Content (C)

The Content domain includes the focusing, structuring, and elaborating that a writer does to construct an effective message for a reader. It is the creation of a product, the building of a composition intended to be read. The writer crafts his/her message for the reader by focusing on a central idea, providing elaboration of the central idea, and delivering the central idea and its elaboration in an organized text. Features are:

- Central idea
- Elaboration
- Unity
- Organization

## Style (S)

The Style domain comprises those features that show the writer is purposefully shaping and controlling language to affect readers. This domain focuses on the vividness, specificity, and rhythm of the piece and the writer's attitude and presence. Features are:

- Selected vocabulary
- Voice
- Tone
- Sentence variety
- Selected information

## Sentence Formation (F)

The Sentence Formation domain reflects the writer's ability to form competent, appropriately mature sentences to express his/her thoughts. Features are:

- Completeness
- Absence of fused sentences and modifiers
- Embedding through standard subordination
- Expansion through standard coordination and modifiers
- Standard word order

## Usage (U)

The Usage domain comprises the writer's use of word-level features that cause written language to be acceptable and effective for standard discourse. Features are:

- Standard inflections
- Agreement
- Word meaning
- Conventions

## Mechanics (M)

The Mechanics domain includes the system of symbols and cuing devices a writer uses to help readers make meaning. Features are:

- Capitalization
- Punctuation
- Formatting
- Spelling