

## BENCHMARK CHECKLIST

	<b>Effective</b>	<b>Satisfactory</b>	<b>Marginal</b>
• Clear and focused topic or main idea			
• Interesting and well-developed supporting details			
• Clear and effective organization			
• Strong opening and closure			
• Engaging personality and tone			
• Precise, carefully chosen vocabulary			
• Vivid verbs and powerful descriptions			
• Easy rhythm and flow created by varied word and sentence patterns			
• Correct use of capitals, punctuation and grammar			
• Conventional spelling, appropriate to grade level			



## BENCHMARK ASSESSMENT RUBRIC

	<b>5</b>		<b>3</b>		<b>1</b>
<b>Ideas &amp; Content</b> ☒ <i>main theme</i> ☒ <i>supporting details</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Clear and focused, with strong supporting detail and elaboration</li> </ul>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Main idea is evident, but may be a list of details lacking development</li> </ul>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Main idea may lack content or be cluttered by irrelevant details</li> </ul>
<b>Organization</b> ☒ <i>structure</i> ☒ <i>introduction</i> ☒ <i>conclusion</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Effectively organized with an engaging introduction and conclusion</li> </ul>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Beginning, middle and end with some attempt at introduction and conclusion</li> </ul>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Lack of structure; disorganized and hard to follow</li> <li>Missing or weak intro and conclusion</li> </ul>
<b>Voice</b> ☒ <i>personality</i> ☒ <i>sense of audience</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Consistently expressive, engaging and sincere personality and tone</li> </ul>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Appropriate to audience and purpose with a pleasant but largely unvarying tone.</li> </ul>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Writing tends to be flat or stiff, lacking connection to audience</li> </ul>
<b>Word Choice</b> ☒ <i>precision</i> ☒ <i>effectiveness</i> ☒ <i>imagery</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Precise, carefully chosen words throughout the piece, with many fresh, vivid images</li> </ul>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Language is functional and appropriate with some effort at descriptive vocabulary</li> </ul>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Words choice is mundane without evidence of intentional word choice</li> </ul>
<b>Sentence Fluency</b> ☒ <i>rhythm, flow</i> ☒ <i>variety</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Easy flow and rhythm created by variation in word and sentence patterns</li> </ul>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Generally in control of sentences, but they lack variety in length and structure</li> </ul>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Monotonous sentence patterns, often choppy and/or with frequent run-on sentences</li> </ul>
<b>Conventions</b> ☒ <i>age-appropriate, spelling, caps, punctuation, grammar</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Exceptionally strong control of standard conventions of writing</li> </ul>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Control of most writing conventions, but there may be occasional errors with complex words and sentences</li> </ul>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Frequent and significant errors interfere with reading the piece</li> </ul>



