

Five Qualities of Good Writing

What is good writing? This is not an easy question to answer. Many very different kinds of writing are considered "good" and for many different reasons. There is no formula or program for writing well. However, there are certain qualities that most examples of good writing share. The following is a brief description of five important qualities of good writing. The qualities described here are especially appropriate for academic and expository writing.

FIVE IMPORTANT QUALITIES OF GOOD WRITING

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| Writing should have focus : | An essay should have a single clear central idea. Each paragraph should have a clear main point or topic sentence. |
| Writing should have development : | Each paragraph should support the central idea of the paper. Individual sentences should support the main point of the paragraph. |
| Writing should have unity : | Every paragraph in an essay should be related to the main idea. Each paragraph should stick to its main point. |
| Writing should have coherence : | An essay or paper should be organized logically, flow smoothly, and "stick" together. In other words, everything in the writing should make sense to a reader. |
| Writing should have correctness : | A paper should be written in generally correct standard English, with complete sentences, and be relatively error-free. |

One additional quality, not part of this list, but nevertheless, very important, is **creativity**. The best writing is that which carries some of the personality, the individuality of its author. Follow the above guidelines, but always strive above all to make your writing uniquely your own.