FIGURE 1.6

What Teachers Value in Writing



Clear—makes sense Topic narrowed to manageable size Has a key message (or messages) Teaches me something Holds my attention Fresh, original perspective Important, telling details Details go beyond common knowledge Minimal filler (unneeded information) Insight Authenticity New information

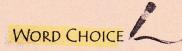
ORGANIZATION

Inviting lead that draws me in Starts somewhere, goes somewhere Compelling sense of direction Provides connections—detail to detail,

thought to thought, paragraph to paragraph Well-paced, spending time where it matters Easy to follow—like a good road map Satisfying conclusion—sense of resolution An occasional surprise Not formulaic or too predictable Organization supports the message or story



Sounds like this writer and no other Writer is "at home" in the writing Writer seems engaged by the topic Brings topic to life for me, the reader Shows concern for me as a reader Individual, distinctive—unlike others Makes me cry, laugh, get chills Confident—the writer knows his/her stuff Lively, energetic, passionate Writing I want to reread or share



"Just right" words Memorable words—worth highlighting, quoting Creates word pictures, movies in the mind Accurate, precise Enlightening—helps me "get it" Strong verbs Easy on the modifiers (adjectives, adverbs) Simple, everyday language used well Repeats as necessary—or for effect Concise and to the point Uses language to teach, not impress Uses terminology well (as needed)

SENTENCE FLUENCY

Easy to read on the first try Has rhythm, flow, cadence Easy to read with voice, expression Carefully crafted sentences Variety in length, structure . . . OR Repetition of patterns for effect Concise, direct sentences in informational or technical writing Fragments used only for effect Run-ons used only for effect (as in dialogue) Authentic dialogue Consistency in tense (past, present, future)

CONVENTIONS & PRESENTATION

Clean, carefully edited text No distracting errors No "mental editing" needed Conventions guide reader Conventions support meaning and voice Design draws reader's eye to key points Design makes information easy to find Free of distracting visuals, hard-to-read fonts Uses graphics as needed to enhance text Makes good use of white (open) space

CHAPTER 1 Getting Acquainted with the 6 Tran