

FIGURE 3.2

Student Writing Guide for IDEAS



6

- My writing will grab and hold your attention.
- The main idea or message really jumps out at you.
- I know this topic inside and out.
- This writing will make you think—and remember.
- The details I chose will intrigue you—and perhaps make a picture or movie in your mind.

5

- My writing makes sense and stays “on message.”
- You can tell right away what the main point is.
- I know a lot about this topic.
- I share important, interesting information.
- My details are helpful and important.

4

- Most of the time* I stick with the message.
- You can figure out my main point.
- I know enough to give you an overview.
- I share *some* new information—and some things you’ve heard before.
- You’ll get the general idea.

3

- I listed some ideas—I didn’t develop all of them.
- You might figure out my message or you might not.
- I wish I knew more about this topic.
- If I got stuck, I made things up—or just guessed.
- I *think* you’ll get the general idea.

2

- I’m still figuring out what I want to say.
- It might be hard to figure out my message.
- Writing about this topic was hard.
- I said some things I could not prove or support.
- I ran out of things to say and had to repeat or write about something else.

1

- I don’t have much to say yet.
- I’m still searching for a clear topic.
- I’m sure I left readers with a LOT of questions.
- These are my first thoughts—I just wrote to fill up the page.
- I need help choosing or understanding my topic.

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