

Properties of a Well-written Text

- **Clarity and focus:** In good writing, everything makes sense and readers don't get lost or have to reread passages to figure out what's going on. Focused writing sticks with the plot or core idea without running off on too many tangents.
- **Organization:** A well-organized piece of writing is not only clear; it's presented in a way that is logical and aesthetically pleasing. You can tell non-linear stories or place your thesis at the end of an essay and get away with it as long as your scenes or ideas are well ordered.
- **Ideas and themes:** Is the topic of your paper relevant? Does your story come complete with themes? Can the reader visualize your poem? For a piece of writing to be considered well crafted, it has to contain clearly identifiable ideas and themes.
- **Voice:** This is what sets you apart from all other writers. It's your unique way of stringing words together, formulating ideas, and relating scenes or images to the reader. In any piece of writing, the voice should be consistent and identifiable.
- **Language (word choice):** We writers can never underestimate or fail to appreciate our most valuable tools: words. Good writing includes precise and accurate word choices and well-crafted sentences.
- **Grammar and style:** Many writers would wish this one away, but for a piece of writing to be considered good (let alone great), it has to follow the rules of grammar (and break those rules only when there's a good reason). Style is also important in ensuring that a piece of writing is clear and consistent. Make sure you keep a grammar book and style guide handy.
- **Credibility or believability:** Nothing says bad writing like getting the facts wrong or misrepresenting oneself. In fiction, the story must be believable (even if it's impossible), and in nonfiction, accurate research can make or break a writer.
- **Thought-provoking or emotionally inspiring:** Perhaps the most important quality of good writing is how the reader responds to it. Does she come away with a fresh perspective and new ideas? Does he close the cover with tears in his eyes or a sense of victory? How readers react to your work will fully determine your success as a writer.

Donovan, M. (2013). Eight characteristics of good writing. *Writing forward*. Retrieved from <https://www.writingforward.com/better-writing/characteristics-of-good-writing>.