SIX TRAITS RUBRIC: CONVENTIONS

Score 5	It's Nearly Perfect!
Standard writing conventions in a Score 5 text are used correctly and in a way that aids the reader's understanding. Any errors tend to be minor; the piece is nearly ready for publication.	√ Paragraphing is regular and enhances the organization of the text. √ Grammar and usage are correct and add clarity to the text as a whole. Sometimes the writer may manipulate conventions in a controlled way—especially grammar and spelling—for stylistic effect. √ Punctuation is accurate; it enables the reader to move though the text with understanding and ease. √ The writer's understanding of capitalization rules is evident throughout the text. √ Most words, even difficult ones, are spelled correctly. √ The writing is long and complex enough to show the writer using a wide range of convention skills successfully.
Score 3	**Close—I Found a Few Errors**
The writer of a Score 3 text exhibits an awareness of a limited set of standard writing conventions and uses them to enhance the texts' readability. Some errors distract and confuse readers. Moderate editing is required before publication.	√ Paragraphs are used but may begin in the wrong places, or sections that should be separate paragraphs are run together. √ Conventions may not always be correct; however, problems with grammar and usage are usually not serious enough to distort meaning. √ End marks are usually correct, but other punctuation marks, such as commas, apostrophes, semi-colons, and parentheses, may be missing or wrong. √ Common words are usually spelled correctly. √ Most words are capitalized correctly, but the writer's command of capitalization skills is inconsistent.
Score 1	**Hmm. I'm Distracted By Too Many Errors**
In a Score 1 text there are errors in spelling, punctuation, grammar and usage, and paragraphing that seriously impede the reader's comprehension. Extensive editing is required for publication.	√ Paragraphing is missing, uneven, or too frequent. Most of the paragraphs do not reinforce or support the organizational structure of the text. √ Errors in grammar and usage are very common and distracting; such errors also affect the text's meaning. √ Punctuation, including terminal punctuation, is often missing or incorrect. √ Even common words are frequently misspelled. √ Capitalization is haphazard or reveals the writer's understanding of only the simplest rules. √ The text must be read once just to decode the language and then again to capture the text's meaning.