Hierarchy of Writing Concerns

Rhetorical Task Concerns

Global Concerns

Paragraph-Level Concerns

Sentence-Level Concerns

Word-Level Concerns

Publication-Level Concerns

Rhetorical task concerns

- Does the writer understand the task?
- Does the Writer understand her audience?
- Does the writer understand her purpose?

Global concerns

- Are the ideas conveyed substantial? Meaningful? Engaging?
- Is the writing structured purposefully? Effectively?
- Does the writing develop in meaning, complexity, etc.?
- Has the writer chosen a tone and style appropriate for the task?

Paragraph-level concerns

- Does each paragraph develop an relatively unified idea?
- Is the content of each paragraph arranged logically?
- Are the ideas in the paragraph developed clearly?
- Does the author use appropriate evidence to support the main ideas of the paragraph?
- Does each paragraph connect logically, via transitions, to adjacent paragraphs?

Sentence-level concerns

- Are sentences clear in meaning?
- Do sentences vary in length and type?
- Do sentences transition smoothly?
- Are sentences concise?
- Are sentences complete, avoiding unintended run-ons and fragments?

Word-level concerns

- Is diction precise, accurate, and appropriate to audience and purpose?
- Is verb tense consistent?
- Do subjects agree with verbs? Nouns with pronouns?
- Are words spelled correctly?

Publication-level concerns

- Is the heading formatted correctly?
- Are page numbers formatted correctly?
- Is spacing correct/appropriate?
- Is the document designed attractively, appropriately?
- Are citations accurate? Handled according to designated style?