

Im good at talking on my cell phone. What you have to do to become good at this, is by learning how to use it. First you pick up the phone and press the number you want. Second you wait till someone hello. Third you say is, the name of the person you're calling there. Then hopefully they'll be on the phone, you say wass up. Most likely they'll say nothing much. Then you get a conversation going. Talk about the latest gossip, or the guy or girl you like, or just something that both of you have interest in. After you are done talking, say good by and hang up. Thats how you use a cell phone.

“Useful Invention” / 8<sup>th</sup> Grade / Expository / Six Trait, 6-Point Rubric  
Prompt: Think about an invention people use every day that is helpful or harmful. Explain how you use this invention, and how it it helpful or harmful to you.

<b>Ideas and Content</b> 4/3	The reader suspects minimal expenditure of effort in this piece about using a cell phone. “Painfully obvious” are words that come to mind. However, the message is clear, the support is accurate, although overly general. Detail emerges for a moment when the writer suggests possible conversation topics. Suggestions for this writer: 1) narrow the topic 2) include new information, more <b>specific</b> details 3) expand and develop the support.
<b>Organization</b> 4/4	The structure is strong enough to support he main idea. A functional lead raises hopes for a humorous piece, but the conclusion feels abrupt—rather like a door slamming. Transitions are somewhat varied and work to keep the sequence in the process clear.
<b>Voice</b> 3/4	<i>Wassup?</i> - <i>Nothing much</i> -just about says it all! Even though the topic is as obvious as the cell phone in your pocket, there is a spark of voice in this piece. This reader hears an individual note, a glimpse of the person behind the words, who might do well to go all out and write a humorous piece on the subject of cell phone conversations.
<b>Word Choice</b> 3/4	The words are natural sounding but a few awkward spots and overused pronouns cause the reader to stop and reread: <i>What you have to do to become good at this, is by learning how to use it.</i> On the other hand, the sentence that begins with <i>Talk about the latest gossip...</i> offers more precision in word choice.
<b>Sentence Fluency</b> 3/4	When sentences contain grammatical slip-ups and missing words, raters try to give the piece a fair oral reading in order to “hear” the fluency without getting bogged down in grammatical or punctuation errors. In this short piece, too many sentences need rehearsing to find the flow. Even after giving the piece its best oral reading, many sentences do not read smoothly.
<b>Conventions</b> 3/4	Nearly every line needs editing prior to publication, although the errors do not impair the message. Spelling and contractions for <i>you're</i> and <i>they'll</i> are accurate, but apostrophes are missing in <i>Im</i> and <i>thats</i> . Missing quotation marks and commas reflect the need for reviewing basic punctuation rules. The questionable use of capitals to begin sentences may be attributed to handwriting issues. Correctly indented first paragraph and fairly accurate spelling are demonstrated.