

## Six Traits Writing

Ideas



Word Choice



Organization



Fluency



Voice



Conventions



There are **Six Traits** or qualities of good writing. The six traits represent a language that empowers students and teachers to communicate about qualities of writing - ideas, word choice, organization, fluency, voice, conventions and presentation ( a feature of writing, often added as the "+1" trait). The traits are NOT a writing curriculum but rather a language. We use the traits for assessment and as a shared vocabulary to describe what good writing looks like at every age, (Culham, 2006).

The Six Traits of Quality Writing:

1. **Ideas:** Are the heart and soul of writing. They are the content of the piece of writing, the main theme together with the details that enrich and develop that theme.
2. **Word Choice:** Is the development of rich, colorful precise language that moves and enlightens the reader. Encourage students to explore a variety of ways to say the same thing. It is handy to have a thesaurus or dictionary in your classroom (at all levels) to model for students the many opportunities they have to use colorful, interesting words that help create a vivid picture in the readers mind.
3. **Organization:** Is the logical and sometimes intriguing pattern of the ideas. Model how good writers organize their thoughts to ensure that there is a strong introduction, logical sequence, smooth transitions and a conclusion.
4. **Fluency:** This is the flow and rhythm of the writing. This is what keeps your reader engaged. The writing contains well-constructed sentences that show how the writer's ideas relate to the topic. Fluency is the rhythm and flow of language, the way in which the writing "plays" to the ear - not just the eye.
5. **Voice:** Builds a connection between the reader and the writer. It allows the reader to feel a part of the author or text. It is the heart and soul, the magic along with the feeling of the individual writer coming out in words.
6. **Conventions:** Conventions are the mechanical correctness of the piece, the grammar, spelling, punctuation, paragraphing and capitalization of the piece.
7. **Presentation:** Students showcase their work. It is not necessary that every piece of writing be published.