

SIX TRAITS OF WRITING

IDEAS	Has clarity, fresh perspective, important details that go beyond the obvious
ORGANIZATION	Has order and logic, clear connections to the main idea, inviting, attention-getting lead, graceful ending
VOICE	Is appropriate for the topic, audience and purpose; brings topic to life, has the mark of a particular writer
WORD CHOICE	Creates word pictures, relies on strong verbs and precise nouns; does not try to impress with jargon or overblown language; avoids redundancy
SENTENCE FLUENCY	Is easy to read aloud, inviting; has varied sentence length and structure, purposeful sentence beginnings
CONVENTIONS	Looks clean, edited, proofread; has no glaring errors that distract the reader, specifically: <ul style="list-style-type: none">- spelling correct on simple words, correct or close on difficult words- ending punctuation correct; internal punctuation not misleading- paragraphs for new topics, new speakers- quotation marks to denote dialogue- capital letters to begin all proper nouns and all sentences- noun-verb agreement- no arbitrary shifts in tense