

The Six Traits in Writing

Ideas

Definition: Ideas are the heart of any writing. Ideas are the information. In creative writing, the ideas paint a picture for the reader. In expository writing, ideas give the reader topic specific information.

Key Features:

- Clarity
- Focus
- Quality details
- Strong support
- Authenticity
- No "filler"
- Balance- not too much information, but enough information

Organization

Definition: Organization is the internal structure of the writing. The ideas are put together in a logical and/or sequential order so that the writing is easy to read and understand. The topic is easy to identify and the open and closing are strong.

Key Features:

- Strong topic sentence
- Natural and effective transitions
- Orderly arrangement of information
- Good pacing
- Satisfying conclusion

Voice

Definition: Voice is the person behind the pen. It is the individual, the writer's perspective, enthusiasm, and the confidence that makes the writing enjoyable to read.

Key Features:

- Individuality
- Enthusiasm
- Confidence that comes from knowledge
- Tone that fits the purpose of the writing
- Tone that fits the audience

Word Choice

Definition: Word Choice is the use of words to effectively and efficiently communicate a message. The writing is clean, clear and to the point. It does not have vague words like: nice, fun, great, stuff or use big words just to impress.

Key Features:

- Accuracy
- Precision
- Words that fit the audience and purpose
- Lively verbs
- Words that "show" rather than "tell"
- Words that paint pictures

Sentence Fluency

Definition: Sentence Fluency is the rhythm and flow of the sentences and the variety of sentence structures that make the writing enjoyable to read and easy to understand.

Key Features:

- One sentence flows into another
- Variety of length
- Variety of structure
- Easy to read and follow
- Good rhythm and flow

Conventions

Definition: Conventions are the spelling, capitalization, punctuation, grammar, and usage in the writing.

Key Features:

- Easy to read and understand
- Appropriate use of punctuation and capitalization
- Conventions add to the writing rather than create distractions
- Use of grammar is correct