

# Get started with the Six Traits

## What are the traits?

The Six Traits of Writing are rooted in [more than 50 years of research](#). This research reveals that all “good” writing has six key ingredients—ideas, organization, voice, word choice, sentence fluency, and conventions.

These key components provide teachers and students a common understanding for how to compose, revise, and assess all types of writing. They are inherent in well-written essays, reports, blogs, poems, videos, and other genres. But they are also evident within the products of our [youngest writers—pictures, labels, lists, etc.](#)

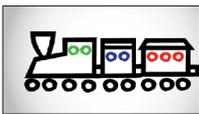
This shared vocabulary allows teachers and students to communicate about the strengths and weaknesses in writing. The Six Traits take the mystery out of what a “good” one looks and sounds like.

It's important to recognize the Six Traits are not a program. They are simply six words, six characteristics, six ingredients inherent in strong writing. Therefore, this vocabulary integrates easily into any writing curriculum.



### Trait of Ideas

Develop a single topic to convey a clear message.



### Trait of Organization

Reveal ideas in a logical order, including a beginning, middle, and end.



### Trait of Voice

Increase reader engagement with intentional writer feeling, attitude, and emotion.



### Trait of Word Choice

Use the right word in the right place to convey just the right meaning.



### Trait of Sentence Fluency

Improve the readability of a piece with complete thoughts and sentence variety.



### Trait of Conventions

Make writing more correct by following the rules of spelling, punctuation, capitalization, and grammar.

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## References:

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"Trait-based writing provides a common vocabulary for talking about writing."

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*Traits of Writing*