

Definitions of Six Traits



Ideas - This component focuses on the main idea and content of the piece. The writer chooses details that are informative and not necessarily details that the reader already knows. (The grass is green, the sky is blue)

Organization - This trait requires that the piece fits in with the central idea. The organizational structure needs to follow a pattern such as chronological order, comparison/contrast or any other logical pattern. The writer needs to make strong connections to keep the readers interest.

Voice - This trait refers to the style of the writer. The voice is where the writer imparts his/her personal tone to the piece while still fitting in with the genre of the piece.

Word Choice - Word choice requires that the writer choose his/her words very carefully. The writer should enlighten the reader by choosing strong words that clarify or expand the idea.

Sentence Fluency - This trait requires that sentences flow naturally and smoothly. Fluent writing has rhythm and is free of awkward word patterns.

Conventions - This trait focuses on the correctness of the piece (spelling, grammar, punctuation).