THE SIX TRAITS OF WRITING

**A trait** is a feature or characteristic of a person, place, or thing.

**A trait** of a good sandwich may be the freshness of the filling or the bread. It could be the flavorful toppings. A trait of a good football player may be his ability to tackle or throw the ball.

**When it comes to writing,** there are certain traits, or characteristics, as well.

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Traits of Writing:

Ideas Word Choice

Organization Sentence Fluency

Voice Conventions

\* Ideas \*

Good writing expresses meaningful content and focuses ideas in order to convey a strong message or purpose. Good writing contains specific details and examples that explain the main thoughts.

·        Is my message clear?

·        Do I know enough about my topic?

·        Is my writing interesting?

·        Do I present clear and focused information?

·        Did I “SHOW” through specific details and examples?

\*\* Organization \*\*

Good writing has a clear beginning, middle, and ending. The overall arrangement of ideas makes the ideas easy to follow and the purpose clear.

·        Does my paper have a good opening that gets the reader’s attention?

·        Did I order my thoughts in a logical and effective way?

·        Are my ideas linked together? Did I use effective transitions?

·        Does my paper have a good ending?

\*\*\* Voice \*\*\*

Good writing reveals the writer’s voice --- his/her special way of expressing ideas and emotions. Voice makes the writing interesting and gives the piece “personality.”

·       Does this writing sound like me?

·       Did I say what I think and feel?

·       Does my writing show enthusiasm?

·       Is my writing appropriate for my audience and purpose?

\*\*\*\* Word Choice \*\*\*\*

Good writing has vivid and precise language that effectively communicates the message of the writer in an interesting and natural way.

·        Will my reader understand my words?

·        Did I use words that sound natural?

·        Are my words accurate and appropriate?

* Do I need to eliminate boring, over-used words?

·        Did I use strong verbs and nouns?

\*\*\*\*\* Sentence Fluency \*\*\*\*\*

Good writing smoothly flows from one sentence to the next. Sentences vary in length and begin in different ways.

·        Do my sentences begin in different ways?

·        Are some sentences long and some short?

·        How does my writing sound as I read it aloud?

·        Have I used transitions to help my sentences fit together?

\*\*\*\*\*\* Conventions \*\*\*\*\*\*

Good writing follows the standards of punctuation, capitalization, spelling, grammar, and usage. Writers proofread and edit to produce a work as error-free as possible.

·        Did I correctly paragraph?

·        Did I check my spelling?

·        Did I use punctuation marks correctly?

·        Did I use capital letters correctly?