WHAT ARE THE SIX TRAITS OF WRITING?
Ideas & Content

A good writer should:

✓ Write from experience.
✓ Use supporting details.
✓ Stay in control of the topic.
✓ Show insight in the writing.
✓ Use fresh and original ideas.
✓ Make the main ideas stand out.
✓ Narrow the topic to something specific.
✓ Develop the topic in an entertaining way.
A good writer should:

- Use a lead that “hooks” the reader.
- Use organization that is graceful.
- Place supporting details so that they fit.
- Give information at just the right moment.
- Use organization that enhances the central idea.
- Use smooth transitions that help the ideas flow together.
- Use logical and effective structure, order, and sequence.
- Use a conclusion that gives the reader a sense of resolution.
- Use an effective conclusion that ties all of the ideas together.
A good writer should:

- Be concise.
- Avoid repetition.
- Use words correctly.
- Use powerful action verbs.
- Use specific descriptive nouns.
- Use slang and clichés sparingly.
- Use language that is natural and not overdone.
- Use adjectives that are as descriptive as possible.
- Use words that create a mental picture for the reader.
Sentence Fluency

A good writer should:

- Use different sentence lengths.
- Use different sentence structures.
- Use different sentence beginnings.
- Use language that sounds natural.
- Give the writing an easy flow and rhythm.
- Invite expressive oral language of the text.
- Use complete sentences – any fragments must add to the meaning of the text.
A good writer should:

- Use capitalization correctly.
- Proofread and edit the paper.
- Use correct spelling, even on difficult words.
- Use grammar that contributes to clarity and style.
- Reinforce the organization with good paragraphing.
- Enhance the readability of the paper with conventions.
- Write a long enough piece to show a wide range of skills.
- Guide the reader through the paper with correct punctuation.
A good writer should:

- Write to be read.
- Connect with the reader.
- Write honestly and from the heart.
- Care about what he/she has written.
- Share his/her feelings about the topic.
- Use more expression than an encyclopedia article.
- Use language that brings the topic to life for the reader.
- Give the reader a sense of the person behind the words.
- Speak directly to the reader, but without using the word “you.”
A good writer should:

- Maintain neatness.
- Use appropriate spacing.
- Use clearly formed or typed letters.
- Use appropriate font(s) and size(s.)
- Use appropriate style sheet as directed.
- Use white space to allow reader to focus on text.
- Use illustrations effectively and when appropriate.
- Use form and presentation to enhance the meaning.
- Use titles, bullets, numbering, and other markers effectively.