

# 6 Writing Traits



THE QUALITIES THAT ALL GOOD WRITING MUST HAVE



# Introduction to the 6 Writing Traits



Good writing must have...

- Interesting IDEAS readers want to know about.

- Focused topic
- Important details



- ORGANIZATION readers can follow easily.

- Beginning, middle, and end
- Transitions



- My own personal VOICE that sounds just like me.

- Personality
- Feelings



# Introduction to the 6 Writing Traits



- **WORD CHOICE** that says what I mean.
  - Vivid
  - Specific
- **FLUENCY** that makes it fun to read out loud.
  - Smooth
  - Musical
- Correct **CONVENTIONS** everyone can read.
  - Punctuation
  - Spelling



# IDEAS and CONTENT



Definition: what you have to say; your **message**

Features:

- An important **main idea**
- Interesting **details**
- “**Showing,**” not just telling
- A **clear** and meaningful **purpose**
- Something **unusual, unique, or surprising** that works



# IDEAS and CONTENT

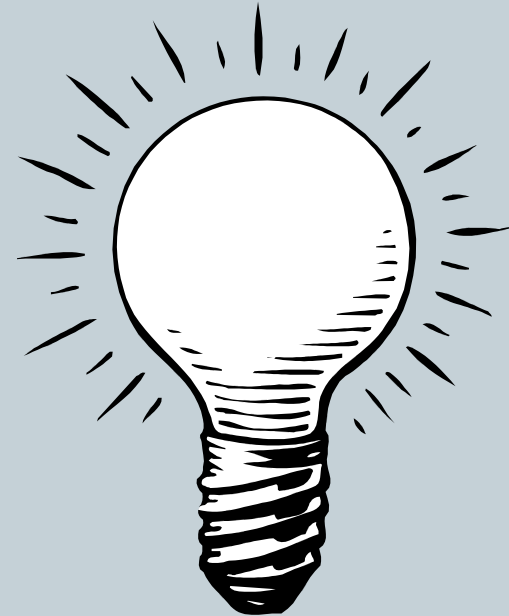


## Checklist:

- ✓ My writing stays “on topic”.
- ✓ My details and examples help my reader understand my message.

## Memory List OR Celebrations List:

- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_



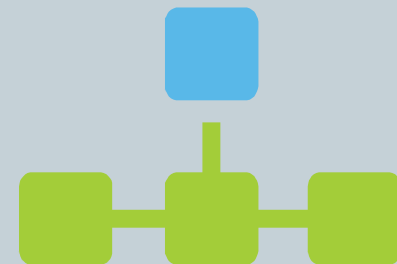
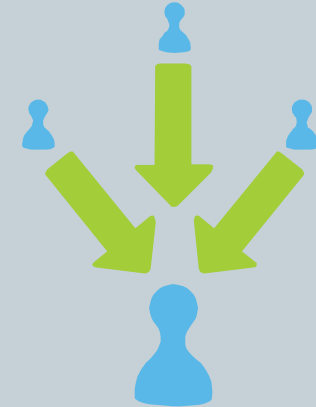
# ORGANIZATION



Definition: the **structure** of your writing

Features:

- Catches the **audience's attention** at the start
- Feels **finished** at the end; makes the audience **think**
- Arranged in the **best order**
- Spends the **right amount of time** on each part
- **Easy to follow** from part to part

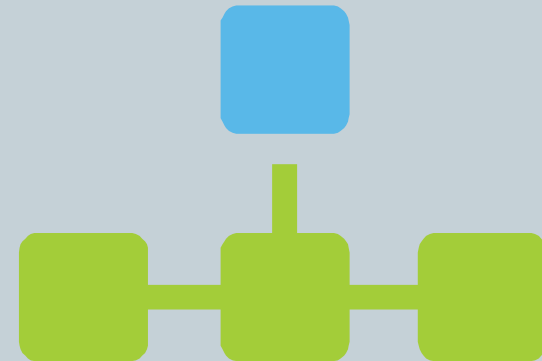


# ORGANIZATION



## Checklist:

- ✓ My **first paragraph is intriguing** to my reader.
- ✓ I tell things in an **order** that makes sense.
- ✓ I use **transition words** to connect ideas or to move smoothly from one paragraph to the next.



# CONVENTIONS



Definition: the **rules** of language

Features:

- “Outside” **punctuation** that makes sense (. ? !)
- “Inside” **punctuation** that makes sense (, : ;)
- **Capitalization**
- **Paragraphing**
- **Spelling**
- **Editing** process for each paper
- Using the WPUUSD Stylebook



# CONVENTIONS



## Checklist:

- ✓ It is **easy for others to read** my writing.
- ✓ I have **proofread** carefully.
- ✓ It is **clear** where each new **paragraph** begins.



# VOICE



Definition: the **writer's personality** comes through the words

Features:

- The author **cares** about the **topic**
- Strong **feelings**; honest statements
- **Individual**, authentic, and original
- Displays a definite and well developed **personality**
- **Appropriate** tone for purpose and audience



# VOICE



## Checklist:

- ✓ My writing **sounds like me**.
- ✓ I make my topic come to life.
- ✓ The amount of **humor, attitude,** and **emotion** is right for the type of writing that I have done.



# WORD CHOICE



Definition: the use of **rich**, **colorful**, and **precise language**

Features:

- A **variety** of words
- Sounds **natural**
- Strong **verbs** that tell how actions are performed
- **Adjectives** and **adverbs** that makes things **specific**
- Words and phrases used **accurately** and **effectively**
- **Appropriate** language for audience and purpose



# WORD CHOICE



## Checklist:

- ✓ I say exactly what I mean.
- ✓ I **create a picture** with words.
- ✓ I keep my vocabulary interesting, but I don't sound like I am trying too hard to impress.



# SENTENCE FLUENCY



Definition: the natural **flow** of language



Features:

- Variety in sentence **beginnings**
- Variety in sentence **length** and **structure**
- Easy to read **expressively**; sounds great read **aloud**
- Rhythm, rhyme, alliteration, and other “**sound**” **effects**
- Sentences are structured so they are **easy** to understand

# SENTENCE FLUENCY



## Checklist:

- ✓ I have **read my writing out loud** to catch any awkwardness or errors.
- ✓ My sentences begin with **different words**.
- ✓ I include **long and short** sentences.

