



Six Traits of Writing

Use this checklist to judge your own writing.

Sound Ideas

- It all makes sense and it has a purpose.
- I know this topic well.
- I have included interesting details not everyone would think of.
- Once you start reading, you will not want to stop.

Good Organization

- Starts out with a bang!
- Everything ties together and flows from idea to idea.
- It builds to the good parts.
- My ideas are broken into logical chunks of paragraphs.
- At the end it feels finished and makes you think.

Voice

- This really sounds like me and what I think!
- My reader can tell that I care about this topic.
- My reader can identify with my characters.
- I want you to read this and feel something.

Word choice

- ___ This is the best way to say this.
- ___ I can picture the setting, actions, and mood!
- ___ My words are new ways to say everyday things.
- ___ Listen to the power in my verbs.
- ___ Some of the words linger in my mind.

Sentence Fluency

- ___ My sentences begin in different ways.
- ___ Some sentences and paragraphs are short and some are long.
- ___ It just sounds good as it is read aloud.
- ___ My sentences have power and punch.

Conventions

- ___ Capitals are used correctly.
- ___ Periods, commas, and quotations marks are in the right places.
- ___ Almost every word is spelled correctly.
- ___ I remembered to indent each paragraph.