

The 6 + 1 Analytic Trait Model For Writing

(From the Northwest Regional Educational Laboratory)

1. Ideas

The ideas are the heart of the message, the content of the piece, the main theme, together with the details that enrich and develop that theme.

2. Organization

Organization is the internal structure of a piece of writing, the thread of central meaning, the logical and sometimes intriguing pattern of the ideas.

3. Voice

The voice is the heart and soul, the magic, the wit, along with the feeling and conviction of the individual writer coming out through the words.

4. Word Choice

Word choice is the use of rich, colorful, precise language that moves and enlightens the reader.

5. Sentence Fluency

Sentence fluency is the rhythm and flow of the language, the sound of word patterns, the way in which the writing plays to the ear - not just to the eye.

6. Conventions

Conventions are the mechanical correctness of the piece - spelling, grammar and usage, paragraphing, use of capitals, and punctuation.

+ 1 Presentation

Presentation zeroes in on the form and layout of the text and its readability; the piece should be pleasing to the eye.