

What are the 6 Traits?

The 6 Traits are writing scoring guides used by the District to evaluate and score student's writing in K-8 classes.

The 6 Traits are Ideas/Content, Organization, Word Choice, Sentence Fluency, Voice and Conventions each with its own detailed criteria to follow.

K-2 writers are evaluated using the terms Experimenting, Emerging, Developing, Capable and Fluent. In grades 3-8, scores in each trait range from 1 to 5. A one shows that the writing demonstrates the development of skills and a five signifies mastery of the skill in each of the 6 categories.

When are the 6 Traits used to score my child's writing?

The 6 Traits have been adopted by the District and are used to evaluate all writing in all classes, academic and applied arts, K-8.

The traits are also used to evaluate formal assessments in 3rd, 5th and 7th grades.

Teachers may choose to score writing samples using one, two, three, four or five of the traits.

What can I do to help my child improve his/her writing?

- Proofread for errors in spelling, punctuation and capitalization.
- Read to see if your child stays focused on the topic and avoids repeating details or words.
- Reinforce proper writing in all homework, not just for English class.
- Encourage your child to correct/revise errors in their writing.

3rd – 8th Grade Scoring Guides

IDEAS/CONTENT

- 5 - clear topic, original ideas – connection of ideas – enriching details – insightful conclusion
- 4 - focuses on topic – original – supporting details – attempts insightful conclusions
- 3 - general focus on topic – some original ideas – some supporting details
- 2 - identifiable topic – few original ideas – disconnected – focus shifts – few supporting details
- 1 - unfocused topic – incomplete ideas – lacks details – no purpose

ORGANIZATION

- 5 - inviting beginning, middle, end – coherent – sequenced & logical ideas – thoughtful transitions within & between paragraphs
- 4 - good beginning, middle, end – ideas connected – sequenced and logical – transitions obvious
- 3 - adequate beginning, middle, end – most ideas connected – most ideas sequenced and logical – attempted transitions
- 2 - attempts beginning, middle, end – few connected ideas – some sequenced and logical ideas
- 1 - lacks beginning, middle or end – ideas not connected – few sequenced and logical ideas

WORD CHOICE

- 5 - wide variety & range – precise word choice – correct usage – paints picture – figurative language
- 4 - some variety & range – correct usage – interesting – lively words
- 3 - some variety – lacks feelings – mostly consistent & correct usage – words support ideas
- 2 - limited word choice – little use of descriptive words – inconsistent word usage
- 1 - repeats too much – inappropriate word choice – no attempt at descriptive words

SENTENCE FLUENCY

- 5 - flow & rhythm – connected – clear meaning – good variety of sentence length & type – natural sounding
- 4 - clearly written sentences – complete sentences – variety sentence length & type
- 3 - most sentences clearly written – simple sentences – some variety in length – controlled structure
- 2 - some unclear sentences – run on, some sentence fragments – little variety in length & type
- 1 - sentences not clear – many sentence fragments – no variety in length & type - confused meaning

VOICE

- 5 - individualistic, convincing – expressive & engaging, paints a picture
- 4 - amusing – surprising – brings to life – somewhat moving – takes risks – written from the heart
- 3 - sincere – pleasant – acceptable – fairly routine – avoid risk – occasionally amuses
- 2 - functional – dispassionate – somewhat flat – vague – disconnected – factual
- 1 - ignores audience, uninvolved, lifeless, monotone

CONVENTIONS

- 5 - correct grammar, capitalization, punctuation, usage, spelling & paragraphing
- 4 - minor errors in grammar, capitalization, punctuation, usage, spelling & paragraphing
- 3 - moderate errors in grammar, capitalization, punctuation, usage, spelling & paragraphing
- 2 - frequent errors in grammar, capitalization, punctuation, usage, spelling & paragraphing
- 1 - constant distractions in grammar, capitalization, punctuation, usage, spelling & paragraphing

THE PARENT'S GUIDE TO 6 TRAIT WRITING (Grades 3-8)

School District of
Hartford
Hartford, Wisconsin