

Focus on Effective Writing

Great writing has seven traits. The students in each Writer's Workshop use the traits to make their writing more effective. Read about each trait. Then read the questions to check whether you have applied the traits in your own writing.

Trait	How?	Ask yourself . . .
Ideas	Pick a topic and focus on your purpose.	"What is my main idea ?"
Organization	Arrange your ideas in an effective order.	"What is the best way to organize this?"
Voice	Express your unique style, personality, and feelings.	"What voice do I use to express how I feel about this subject?"
Word Choice	Choose words to appropriately address your audience and meet your purpose.	"Do my word choices share my ideas in a clear, thoughtful, and expressive way?"
Sentence Fluency	Write sentences that flow and add rhythm and variety.	"Do my sentences work together naturally?"
Conventions	Use correct spelling, grammar, capitalization, and punctuation.	"Do I use correct conventions ?"
Presentation	Create a design that is easy to read and has eye appeal.	"How can I present my writing so that it looks interesting and is clear to my audience?"