# Six Writing Traits

# Ideas

To develop ideas you can use several methods. Choosing a topic with supporting ideas can be done in several ways.

* Brainstorming
* Train of thought
* Visualizing and pictures

## Organization

Thoughts and ideas need to be presented in a logical and systematic way. There are several ways to organize thoughts and ideas to develop a topic.

* Story maps
* Story boards
* Outlines
* Story Webs

# Voice

Voice gives your writing personality and perspective. It gives your paper energy and emotion. Voice is how you say what you need to say. You must match the voice of your paper to its purpose. A research paper would have a different voice from a personal narrative paper.

* Match voice with purpose
* Choose a tone for your paper – serious, sad, humorous

Angry, tense, quiet

* Determine the energy level and amount of voice needed

(strong, weak, or mild voice; great, medium, or low energy)

### Word Choice

Using words that enliven and energize your writing is important. Use action verbs to create a powerful text. Avoid overuse of words and use of unnecessary words. Describe with sensory words.

* Use action verbs
* Check the context of your words
* Describe with sensory words
* Delete unnecessary words

# Sentence Fluency

Sentence fluency is the rhythm and flow of language. Variety and readability are the focus of sentence fluency. Passages strong in sentence fluency have variety in sentence length and structure, identifiable connections between sentences, and absence of repetitive sentence lengths, choppiness of sentences, stiff or forced dialogue, and run-ons.

* Vary sentence lengths and structure
* Use authentic sounding dialogue
* Make writing smooth and easy to read

### Conventions

Revising and editing are two different steps in the writing process. Revising is making major changes in the message of the paper. Editing is correcting errors in grammar, spelling, punctuation and capitalization. Editing requires the identification of errors, marking the errors with editors’ marks, and interpreting the meaning of the marks.

* Identify errors in grammar, spelling, punctuation and capitalization
* Use and interpret editors’ marks to make corrections