

Writing Across the Curriculum
(Enhancing the Writing Product)

Overview of The Six-Traits Writing Model

The "Six-Traits" writing model was developed by [Northwest Regional Educational Laboratory](#) and includes Ideas and Content, Organization, Voice, Word Choice, Sentence Fluency, and Conventions.

IDEAS AND CONTENT - The message or reason for writing your paper

- pick something important to you
- keep it small
- skinny it down
- make your ideas crystal clear
- avoid general statements

ORGANIZATION - Gives your writing direction and moves your reader

- begin with a strong lead
- hook the reader
- order your details
- make your last sentence count
- something to think about

VOICE - Gives the writing personality and a "sound of its own"

- say what you truly think and feel
- think about your reader
- be yourself

WORD CHOICE - Precise and colorful words

- verbs are important too
- keep vocabulary natural
- specific words create vivid pictures in the reader's mind

SENTENCE FLUENCY - There's more than one way to say a thing -- some ways just sound better than others.

- sentences should be clear; they should make sense
- vary the openings
- cut the deadwood
- combine very short sentences
- don't let sentences drift too long

CONVENTIONS - Make your text correct and easy to read.

- spelling
- punctuation
- grammar/usage
- paragraphing
- capitalization
- editing - develop a proofreader's eye - practice reading aloud