

The Six Trait Analytical Model for Writing Assessment

Ideas & Content

Ideas and content are the heart of the message, what the piece says, the main idea or thesis and the details that enrich, support and develop that idea.

Organization

Organization is the structure, the order in which the ideas are presented, the logical and sometimes intriguing pattern of the ideas in a piece of writing.

Conventions

Conventions are the mechanics of the piece—spelling, paragraphing, grammar and usage, punctuation, capitalization.

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. Sentence variety and length.

Word Choice

Word choice is the use of rich, colorful, precise, specific language that moves and enlightens the reader and is appropriate for the intended audience and purpose.

Voice

Voice is the wit, the magic, the feeling, the involvement and conviction of the individual writer coming out in the writing. Voice must be appropriate for the topic, purpose and audience.

This is a revision of the 6+1 model from Northwest Regional Educational Laboratory.