# SIX + 1 TRAITS of WRITING

# Literacy

## Getting to Know the Six + 1 Traits

What is a **trait** in writing?   
A trait in writing is a quality or characteristic that all "good" writing shares.

Six + 1 Traits of writing is a language students and teachers can use to talk about writing. The traits are the qualities of writing. All students at all levels can talk about their writing using this language. These traits are:

1. **Ideas and Content:** The ideas and content are the main theme. Ideas should be presented clearly and [developed fully with reasons, examples](http://www.sheboyganfalls.k12.wi.us/staff/dehogue/FSSH/parag.htm), and support from a text. Insightful development of interesting ideas enriches and develops the theme.
2. **Organization:** Organization is the internal structure of a piece of writing, the thread of central meaning, the logical organization and pattern of ideas.
3. **Voice:** Voice is the personality, along with the feeling and conviction, of the individual writer.
4. **Word Choice:** Word choice is the use of precise and effective language that moves and enlightens the reader, and adds clarity.
5. **Sentence Fluency:** Sentence fluency is the varied and effective rhythm and flow of the language, combined with the fluent sound of word patterns.
6. **Conventions:** Spelling, mechanics, grammar and usage, and agreement are all conventions of writing. Too many errors in conventions impair readability.

**+ 1:**

**Presentation:** This is how the paper looks. Is it typed [according to a format](http://www.sheboyganfalls.k12.wi.us/staff/dehogue/FSSH/assign_format.htm)? Does it have a [title page](http://www.sheboyganfalls.k12.wi.us/staff/dehogue/FSSH/title.htm)? Presentation affects readability.

A **rubric** sets the standard for excellence for each of these areas. Different rubrics fit different purposes. Some teachers may choose to score a project or paper using only a few of the traits or they may choose to score it using all of the traits.