



# Welcome!

A Writing Workshop Framework  
that Focuses on Meeting the  
Six Traits of Quality Writing  
*Milltown School District*



# The Writing Workshop Philosophy

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**Understanding  
the  
Six Traits of  
Quality Writing**

# What does writing instruction look like?

- Listening to examples of good writing for authentic literature
- Practicing the different traits during Writing Workshop
- Practice writing in different genres while meeting the Common Core
- Teacher evaluating growth throughout the writing process





# The Writing Process

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- *Generating Ideas: Imagine the writing possibilities*
- *Select a Topic: My idea, my interest....*
- *Collect: Gather information on my topic*
- *Drafting: Getting ideas on paper*
- *Revising: Improving the sound of writing*
- *Editing: Improving the look of writing*
- *Publishing: A time to share and celebrate!*



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# Meet the 6 Traits of Quality Writing



# What are the 6 traits?

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- Ideas
- Organization
- Voice
- Word Choice
- Sentence Fluency
- Conventions



# Ideas





# Ideas

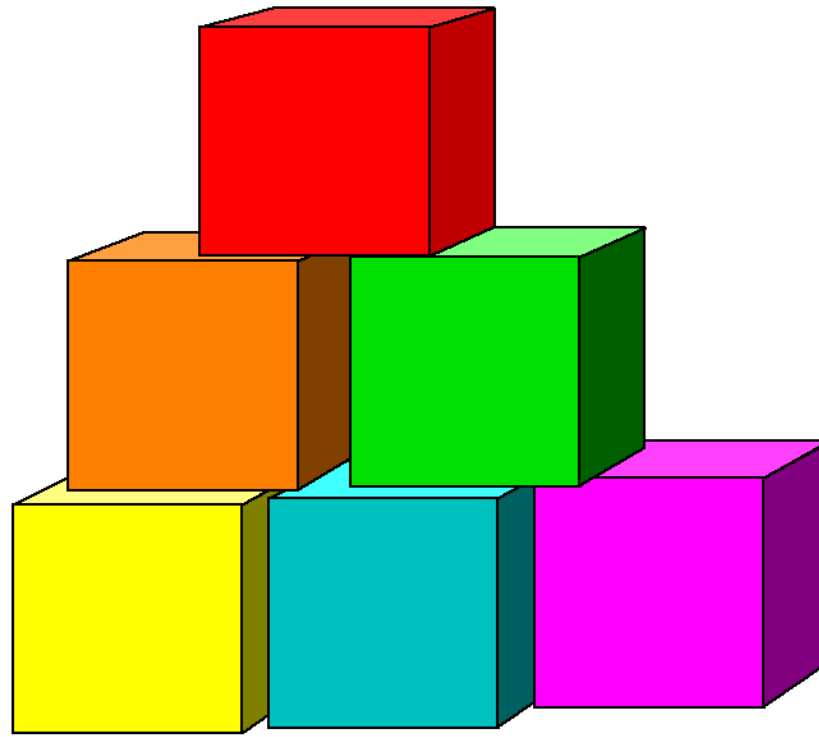
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**Ideas are the heart of any piece of writing...**

- **It's all about the information**
- **Ideas paint pictures in a reader's mind**
- **Informational text becomes reader-friendly**
- **Pay attention to 'beyond-the-obvious' detail**
- **Ideas demonstrate clarity, focus, sense of purpose**



# Organization





# Organization

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**Organization is the internal structure...**

- It's not just paragraphs, but what's in them!
- Does it make sense?
- Is the writing easy to follow? A well-laid-out road map?
- Does the lead 'hook' the reader?
- Are transitions smooth and appropriate?
- Is the conclusion *satisfying*?

# Voice

**V**isualize (Audience & Content)

**O**rganize (Outside the box)

**I**nterpret

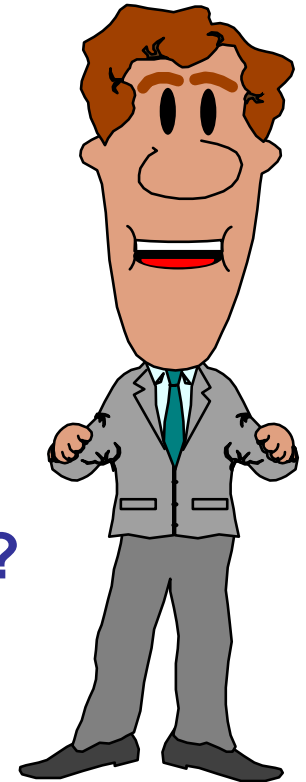
**C**raft

**E**laborate or Eliminate

# voice

## Voice is personality... and confidence

- Individuality and perspective
- Enthusiasm and expressiveness
- Is the author knowledgeable about the topic?
- Does the piece hold the reader's attention?
- Is there real passion? Does the author care?
- Does the text just repeat common knowledge?
- Is the voice appropriate?



# Word choice

*Sounds  
scrumptious!*

How exquisite!

'A breath of  
fresh air...'

*Listen to the  
serene stiffness...*





# Word choice

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**Word choice is clear, precise and colorful...**

- Find the word that is 'just right'
- Stretch to use new, interesting words
- Think verbs, verbs, verbs (use high energy words)
- Avoid 'Creeping Thesaurus-itis'
- Eliminate tired, trite words
- Cut the fat... only use words that carry their own weight



# Sentence Fluency





# Sentence Fluency

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**The rhythm and flow of the sentences...**

- **Sounds soothing to the ear...**
- **A variety of sentence length and structure**
- **Text begs to be read aloud**
- **Smooth transitions support fluency**
- **Punctuate. Periods are a good thing!**



# Conventions



# Conventions

## Editing & revising for conventions...

- Use of proper format (indentation, margins, spacing, etc.)
- Correct use of capitalization, punctuation and spelling
- Maintain verb tense and subject verb agreement throughout composition
- Use adverbs, appositives, clauses and phrases correctly
- Use homophones and other vocabulary correctly





# Remembering the 6 traits...

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- Ideas
- Organization
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# Ideas for Parents...

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- Keep a writing notebook at home for you and your child
- Conversations about books read and what the author did as a writer
- Encourage!
- Celebrate! Share!



# Thank You!

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Questions?

Talk to your student's teacher!