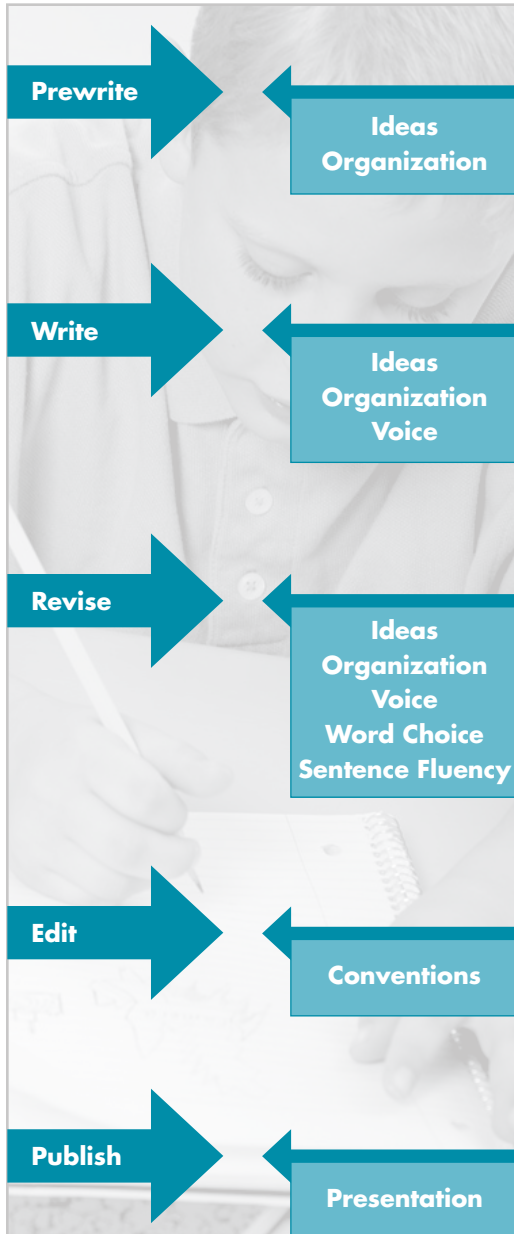


# HOW DO 6+1 TRAITS SUPPORT THE WRITING PROCESS?



*Teachers find that it is helpful to use these traits with their students because the model enhances:*

- ❖ writing instruction.
- ❖ student revision.
- ❖ curriculum alignment in and through grade levels.
- ❖ district and school assessment measures.



*When implementing the 6+1 Traits of Writing model at home, remember that:*

- ❖ rubrics have been designed for each instructional level.
- ❖ students have their own copies of the rubric/grading sheet which should guide their writing.
- ❖ classroom posters are available to reinforce the trait descriptors when students write in class.

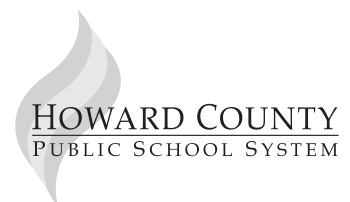
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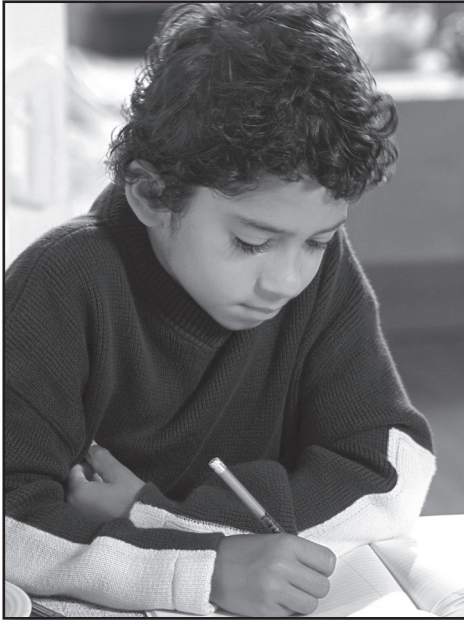
# A FAMILY GUIDE TO THE 6+1 TRAITS® OF WRITING AND ITS CONNECTION TO THE WRITING PROCESS



**A K-12 INITIATIVE**



# WHAT IS THE 6+1 TRAITS® OF WRITING?



**When a teacher writes "awkward" next to a paragraph that your child has written, does your child know what is meant by this comment?**

**As a parent or guardian, do you understand most of the comments made on your child's compositions?**

**When your child comes home from school and asks you what "voice" means as it relates to his or her writing, are you able to answer your child?**

**Is your child coming home from school excited about writing, revising, and editing?**

The 6+1 Traits of Writing is key to these questions. This writing model provides all parties – teachers, students, and parents – with a common vocabulary and a way to prepare and examine written pieces. It complements the writing process, which includes prewriting, writing, revising, editing, and publishing.

The 6+1 Traits of Writing is a Howard County Public School System initiative that is being utilized in writing assignments from kindergarten through grade 12.



**A rating/grading scale (rubric) for any written piece can be developed by using the following traits:**

1. Ideas and Content — the heart of the message.
2. Organization — the internal structure.
3. Voice — the words that capture the sound of the writer on the page.
4. Word Choice — the use of rich, colorful, and precise language.
5. Sentence Fluency — the rhythm and flow of the language.
6. Conventions — the standards for correct writing.
7. Presentation — the form and layout of the piece.

**Pupils benefit from the 6+1 Traits of Writing by:**

- ❖ having a clear understanding of what a rating or grade means.
- ❖ being able to revise their work for a specific trait.
- ❖ being able to refer to materials used to highlight the various traits.
- ❖ making use of advice from peer editors, tutors, or family members who are all able to use the language of the traits.
- ❖ understanding the interdependence of the traits as they contribute to good writing.

**As a parent or guardian, knowledge of these traits may help you:**

- ❖ understand teachers' comments on your child's work.
- ❖ assist your child with the revision part of the writing process.
- ❖ communicate easily about your child's work with his or her teachers.

