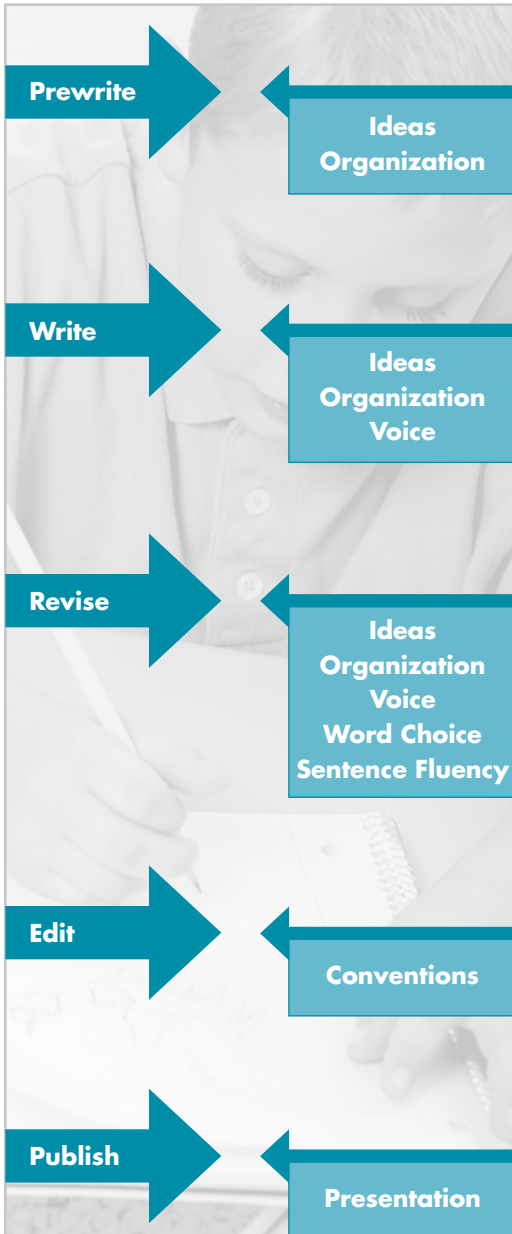


HOW DO 6+1 TRAITS SUPPORT THE WRITING PROCESS?



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.



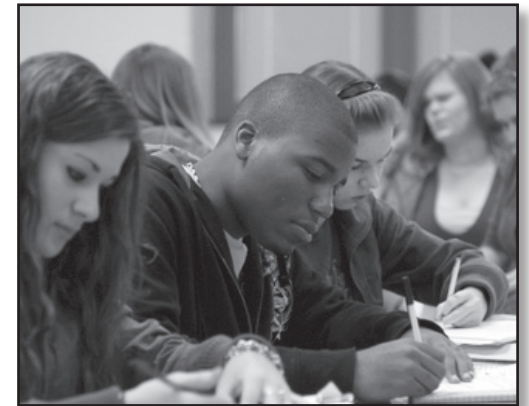
When implementing the 6+1 Traits of Writing model at home, remember that:

- ❖ 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.

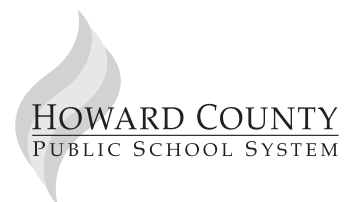
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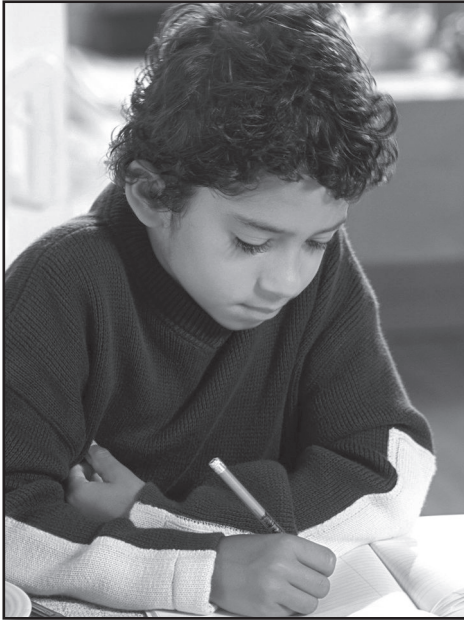
A FAMILY GUIDE TO THE 6+1 TRAITS® OF WRITING AND ITS CONNECTION TO THE WRITING PROCESS



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.

