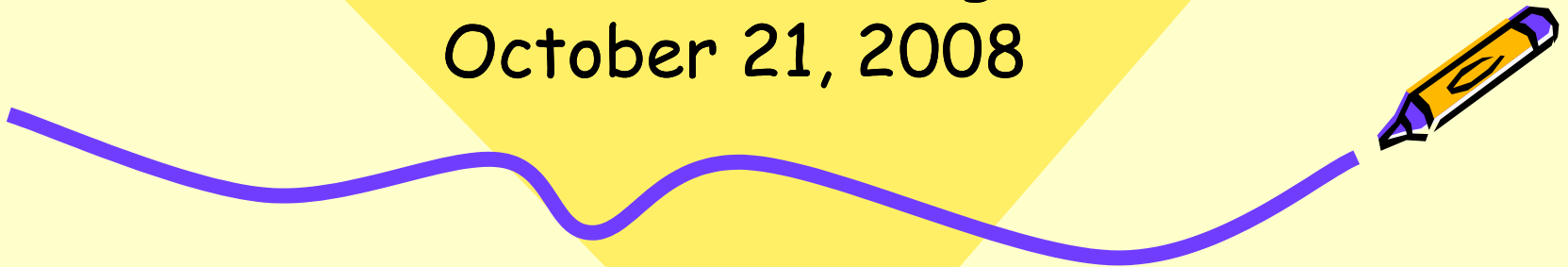


Six Traits Writing

Parents Write Night
October 21, 2008



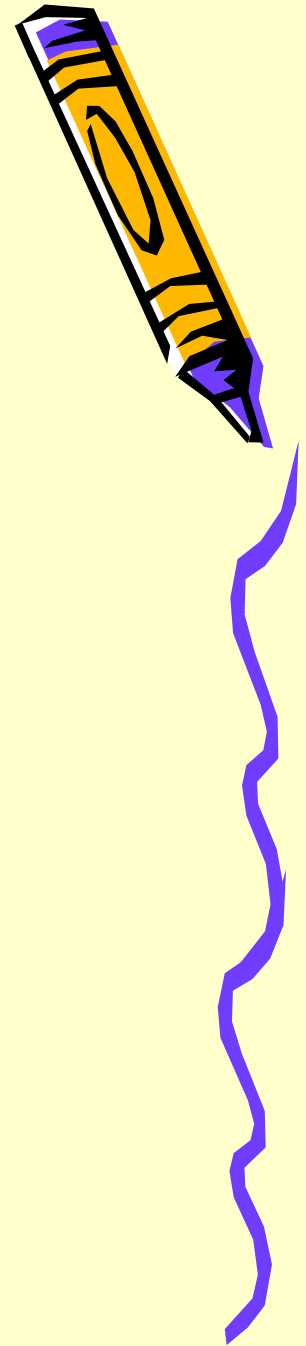
Why use Six Traits?

- Systematic approach to a complicated activity
- Aid understanding by breaking the task into manageable pieces
- Give teachers, students and parents a common vocabulary



What are the Six Traits of writing?

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



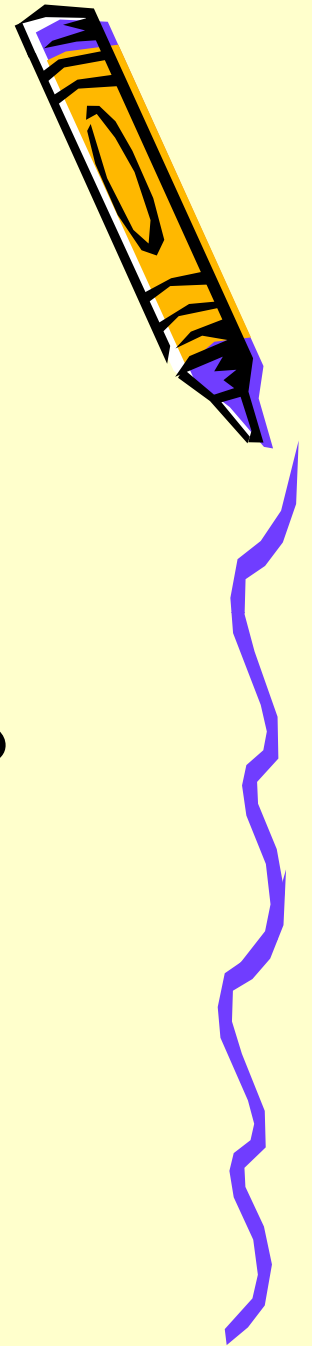
Ideas

- The main point of the writer's message and the details that develop that theme
- Clearly focused
- Provide reader with interesting insights



To encourage good Ideas
have your child answer
these questions:

- Is my message clear?
- Do I know enough about the topic?
- Is my topic focused?
- Is my writing interesting?



Organization

- The internal structure of the piece
- The "roadmap" which directs the reader through the writing
- Has a beginning, middle, and end



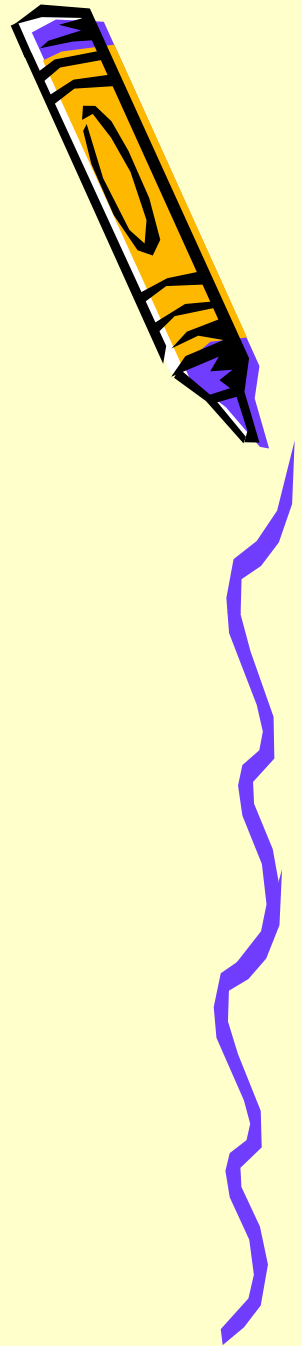
To encourage solid Organization:

- Does the paper have an opening that catches the reader's interest right away?
- Are the ideas in the best order with everything fitting together?
- Does the paper have a strong ending that leaves the reader with something to think about?



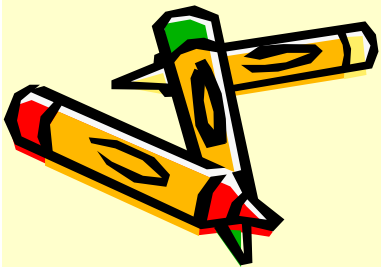
Voice

- The personality and beliefs of the writer coming through the words
- Voice gives the writing style and uniqueness



How parents can help with Voice

- Does the writing sound like me?
- Did I express what I think and feel?
- Does my writing have energy and passion?
- Is it right for my audience and purpose?



Word Choice

- Word Choice makes the writing sound natural and precise
- Enables the writer to “paint memorable pictures” for the reader
- Conveys exactly the writers intended message



Suggestions for parents about Word Choice

- Were my words accurate, original, and just right?
- Will the reader understand my message?
- Did I use energetic verbs?
- Did I use language that painted a picture?



Sentence Fluency

- Creates a rhythm and flow that the reader finds pleasing to follow
- The way the words sound out loud
- Well built sentences using a variety of structures



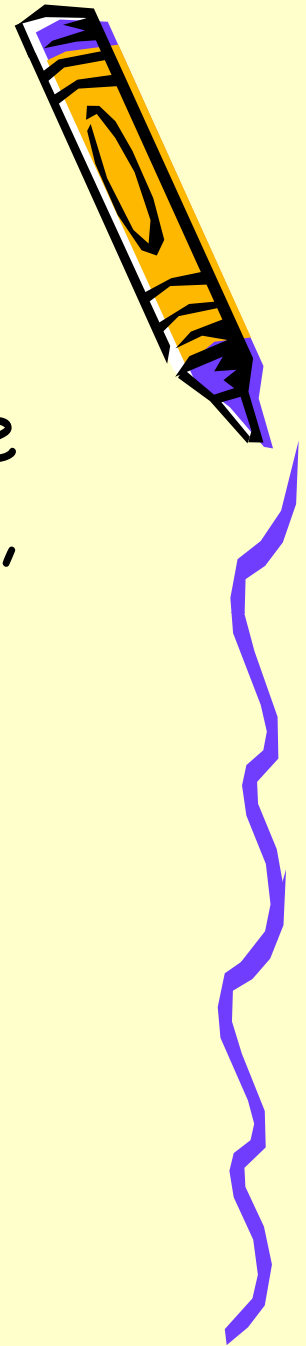
Tips for Sentence Fluency

- How does the writing sound when read out loud?
- Do my sentences begin in different ways?
- Are some sentences long while others are short?



Conventions

- The mechanical correctness of the writing including grammar, spelling, punctuation, and capitalization
- Make the writing easy to read and understand
- Requires the writer to learn proofreading and editing



How to help your child with Conventions

- Did I paragraph correctly?
- Are there any spelling errors?
- Did I use punctuation marks where needed?
- Did I use capital letters properly?



One final word...

The most important thing parents
can do to help children's writing
is to have them

READ THEIR WRITING

before turning it in.

