

INTRODUCTION TO 6 TRAIT ANALYTICAL SCORING



TEACHING AND ASSESSING STUDENT WRITING

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SIX-TRAIT SUPPORT MATERIALS ORDER FORM

Please send me copies of the following resources for assessing and teaching writing:

NUMBER OF COPIES	TITLE	COST
_____	Picture Books	\$15.00
_____	Seeing With New Eyes	\$19.45
_____	Dear Parent Handbook	\$7.45
_____	The Student Friendly guides to Writing With Traits	\$11.50
NUMBER OF STAMPS	STAMPS	COST
_____	Six Analytical Traits (main stamp)	\$10.20
_____	Set of all four stamps (including main stamp)	\$25.90
NUMBER OF POSTERS	POSTERS	COST
_____	Set of six posters, grades 5-14	\$24.95
_____	One poster, K-8, all six traits on one poster	\$10.00

TOTAL _____

Name _____ Position _____
 Institution _____
 Address _____
 City _____ State _____ Zip _____
 (Daytime Phone) (_____) _____

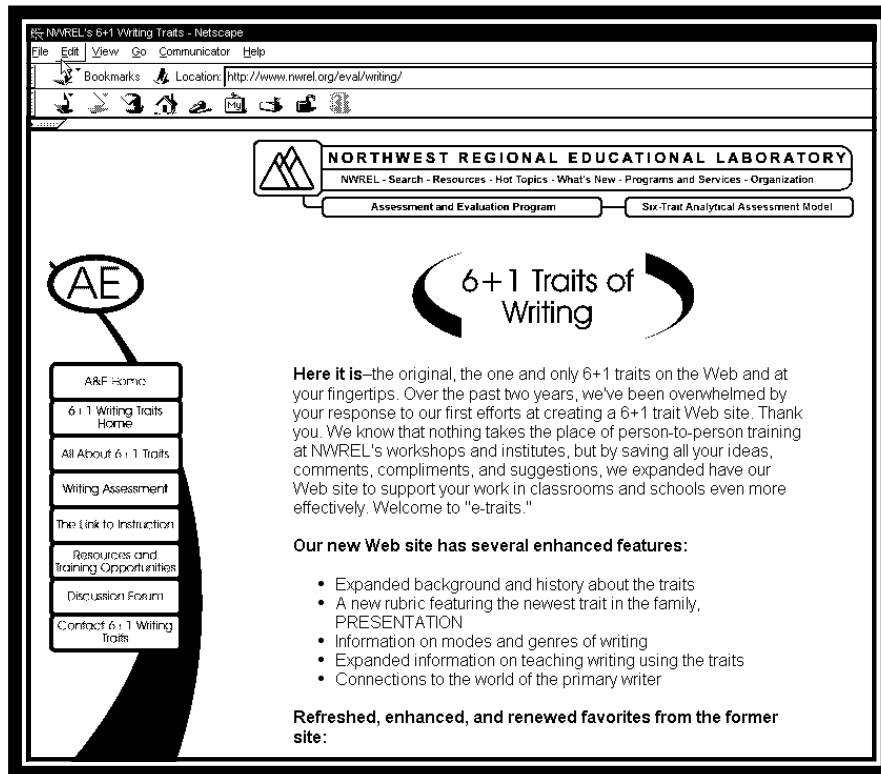
METHOD OF PAYMENT

- Visa credit card
- Master Card credit card
- Prepayment in U.S. dollars/check enclosed
- Purchase order from institution in the United States

Credit card number _____ Expiration date _____
 Signature _____

- ▶ Orders under \$15 include fourth-class postage. Add \$1.50 per item for first-class mail.
- ▶ Orders over \$15 include UPS delivery.
- ▶ Orders from outside the United States and its possessions require advance payment in U.S. currency including an additional 25 percent for postage.
- ▶ Mail order form to NWREL Document Reproduction Service, 101 SW Main St., Suite 500, Portland, OR 97204. If you have questions, please call (503) 275-9519

CHECK OUT THE 6-TRAIT WEB SITE!



HERE'S HOW:

1. Open your Web browser (e.g., Netscape or Internet Explorer).
2. Type in the following URL: <http://www.nwrel.org/eval/writing>
3. That's it!

OVERWHELMED? THE 6-TRAIT WEB SITE CAN HELP!

Lots of people think they have it all figured out while they're at the institute. Then they get back to their schools and reality sets in... Fear not! The 6-Trait Web site offers:

- ▶ Support from the 6-trait pros
- ▶ Links to lesson plans that can help you teach the traits
- ▶ Sample student papers
- ▶ Answers to frequently asked questions

Eventually, the site will have multimedia features like digital video and audio clips, as well as an archived discussion group that will allow you to interact with you 6-trait colleagues.



1998 Northwest Regional Educational Laboratory, Assessment and Accountability Program
Contact Peter Campbell at (503) 275-0684 or campbelp@nwrel.org for more information.



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IDEAS					
ORGANIZATION					
VOICE					
WORD CHOICE					
FLUENCY					
CONVENTIONS					

THE 6-TRAIT ANALYTIC MODEL FOR WRITING ASSESSMENT

1. IDEAS

The ideas are the heart of the message, the content of the piece, the main theme, together with the details that enrich and develop that theme.

2. ORGANIZATION

Organization is the internal structure of a piece of writing, the thread of central meaning, the logical and sometimes intriguing pattern of the ideas.

3. VOICE

The voice is the heart and soul, the magic, the wit, along with the feeling and conviction of the individual writer coming out through the words.

4. WORD CHOICE

Word choice is the use of rich, colorful, precise language that moves and enlightens the reader.

5. SENTENCE FLUENCY

Sentence fluency is the rhythm and flow of the language, the sound of word patterns, the way in which the writing plays to the ear-not just to the eye.

6. CONVENTIONS

Conventions are the mechanical correctness of the piece-spelling, grammar and usage, paragraphing, use of capitals, and punctuation.



ANALYTIC TRAITS

WHAT RESULTS MEAN

IDEAS ~ This trait is the heart of the message, the central idea and the support for that idea. Raters look for clarity (the message must make sense), focus (the topic is narrowed to manageable size) and quality details (beyond the obvious or general).

ORGANIZATION ~ This is the internal structure-the skeleton of the piece. Raters look for an inviting opening that gets and holds a reader's attention, sequencing that is both logical and effective, careful linking of one idea or paragraph to another, and an effective ending that ties up loose ends and leaves the reader with something to think about.

VOICE ~ This is the personal quality of the piece, a sense of the writer behind the words-their individual fingerprints on the page. Raters look for a "flavor" or tone appropriate to the purpose for the writing and the audience, a sense of commitment to the topic, involvement in the writing, enthusiasm, and integrity.

WORD CHOICE ~ Raters look first for correct and accurate use of language, words that are vivid and precise rather than general, and language that is appealing, memorable and noteworthy. Effective, original use of everyday words rate high scores. Misuse of language or over-reliance on the Thesaurus tends to hurt scores.

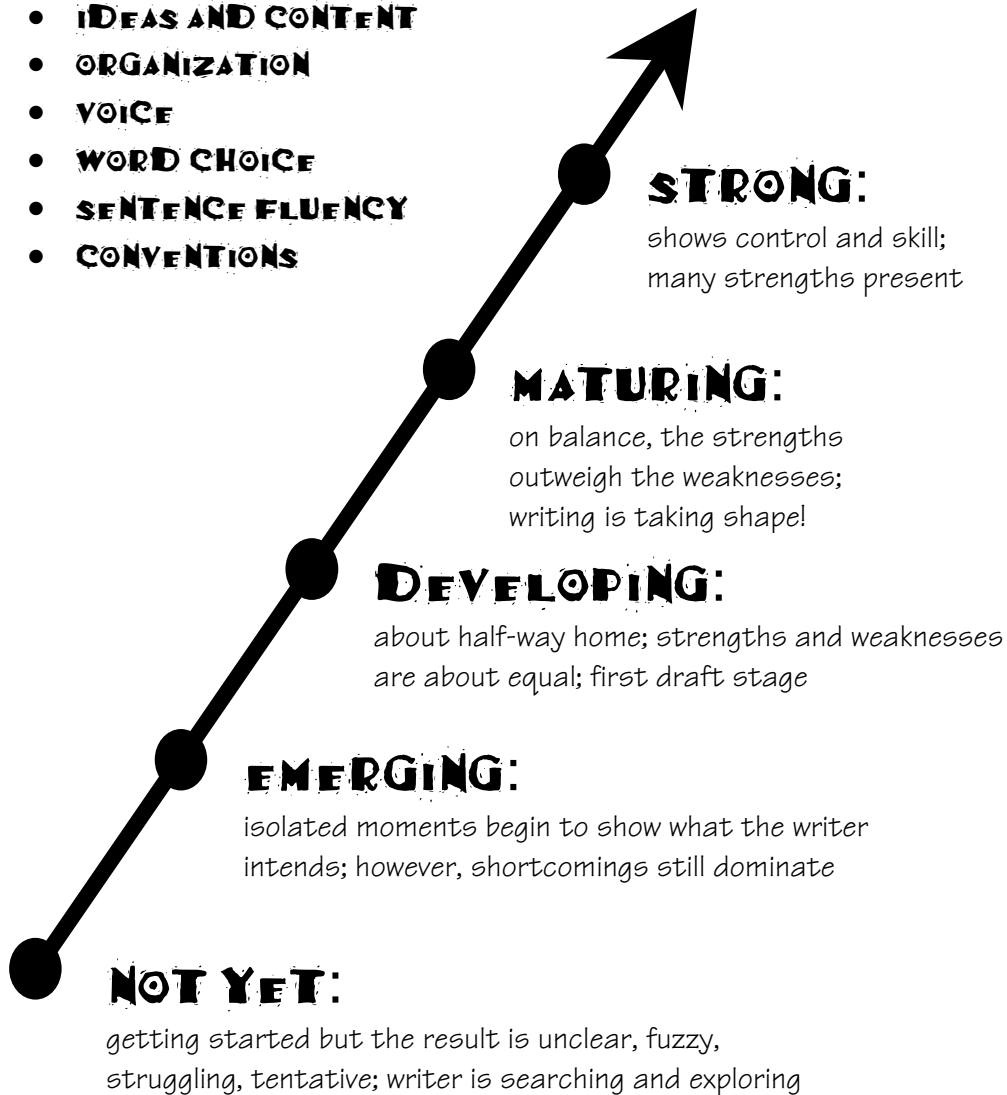
SENTENCE FLUENCY ~ This trait focuses on the rhythm and cadence of the piece-how does it play to the ear when read aloud? Raters "listen" for smoothness and easy flow. They also look for variety and logic in sentence beginnings, differences in sentence length, and variations in general patterning.

CONVENTIONS ~ This trait reflects the general correctness of the piece. Raters look for writing that been edited/proofread with care. They check spelling, punctuation, grammar and usage, paragraphing, and use of capital letters. An addition, another dimension of Conventions called "Presentation" can be used to expand this trait into areas of handwriting, neatness, format and layout.

SIX-TRAIT ANALYTICAL WRITING ASSESSMENT MODEL SCORING GUIDE (RUBRIC)



- IDEAS AND CONTENT
- ORGANIZATION
- VOICE
- WORD CHOICE
- SENTENCE FLUENCY
- CONVENTIONS



WHAT THE NUMBERS MEAN

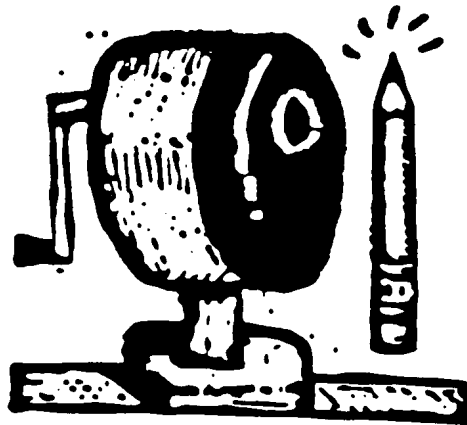
SCORE OF 5 A very strong and controlled (though not necessarily perfect) performance with respect to the trait at hand. Clearly meets the criteria.

SCORE OF 4 A fairly controlled performance with strengths definitely outweighing need for revision. One more draft will make it sing.

SCORE OF 3 A balance between strengths and need for revision on this trait. A good first draft attempt with more work intended. Writer is beginning to take control of the piece.

SCORE OF 2 A hint of things to come. Shows promise, but the writer is not in control yet. Need for revision definitely outweighs strengths on this trait.

SCORE OF 1 Just a beginning point with great need for revision. Writer is still exploring and not feeling comfortable with the topic yet. May want to start over!



THE TEACHING AND LEARNING CYCLE

LEARNING

