

HOW DO STUDENTS LEARN THE TRAITS?

Like teachers, students learn the "in's and out's" of writing by listening to, discussing and assessing writing of all kinds and forms—good and bad. Students learn the traits as listeners long before they can demonstrate these traits clearly in their own writing.

K-2 students learn the foundation as beginning writers to THINK, SPEAK and ASSESS as professional writers do.

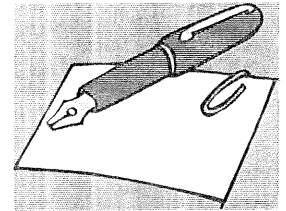
Students in grades 3-5 use a scoring guide. A scoring guide is a summary of all six traits, with numbers on a five point scale, to indicate levels of performance.

SUGGESTED WRITING ACTIVITIES for USE at HOME

- Encourage the writing and addressing of personal greeting cards, invitations and thank-you notes.
- Provide a print-rich environment in your home with magazine subscriptions, books, maps, direction manuals, e-mail and cookbooks.
- Work with your children to keep a writer's notebook of observations, quotes, favorite words and future ideas.
- Create a photo album or scrapbook representing "a year in the life of." Work with your children to create a short introduction along with labels and captions that portray strong VOICE and WORD CHOICE.
- To encourage revision, add highlighting pens, scissors, and glue or tape to your list of materials. These materials facilitate adding, deleting, cutting apart and putting together ideas in different ways.
- Encourage letter writing for developing a sense of voice, audience and purpose. Letters to relatives, organizations and celebrities are some examples.

6 + 1 Writing Traits

A Guide for Parents



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