



# 6-TRAIT ONE PAGER

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## IDEA DEVELOPMENT



*Ideas are the heart of the message, the main thesis, impression, or story line of the piece, together with the documented support, elaboration, anecdotes, images, or carefully selected details that build understanding or hold a reader's attention.*

- 5 The paper is clear, focused, purposeful, and enhanced by significant detail that captures a reader's interest.
  - The paper creates a vivid impression, makes a clear point, or tells a whole story, without bogging down in trivia.
  - Thoughts are clearly expressed and directly relevant to a well-defined main theme or story.
  - The writer selectively and purposefully uses information to make the topic understandable and interesting. The writing has the ring of authenticity.
  - Quality details consistently inform or engage the reader—or just expand his or her thinking.
- 3 The writer has made a solid beginning in defining a key issue, making a point, creating an impression, or sketching out a story line. More focus and detail will breathe life into this writing.
  - It is easy to see where the writer is headed, even if some telling details are needed to complete the picture.
  - The reader can grasp the big picture, though general observations still outweigh specifics.
  - There may be too much information; it would help if the writer would be more selective.
  - As a whole, the piece hangs together and makes a clear general statement or tells a recountable story.
- 1 The writing is sketchy or loosely focused. The reader must make inferences in order to grasp the point or piece together the story. The writing reflects more than one of these problems:
  - The writer still needs to clarify the topic.
  - The reader often feels information is limited, unclear, or simply a loose collection of facts or details that, as yet, do not add up to a coherent whole.
  - It is hard to identify the main theme or story line.
  - Everything seems as important as everything else.

### Ideas

- ✓ Heart of the message
- ✓ Quality details



## ORGANIZATION

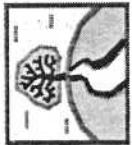


*Organization is the internal structure of the piece. It is both skeleton and glue. Strong organization begins with a purposeful, engaging lead and wraps up with a thought-provoking close. In between, the writer takes care to link each detail or new development to a larger picture, building to a turning point or key revelation and always including strong transitions that form a kind of safety net for the reader, who never feels lost.*

- 5 The order, presentation, or internal structure of the piece is compelling and moves the reader purposefully through the text.
  - The organization showcases the central theme or story line.
  - Details seem to fit right where they are placed—though the order is often enlivened by a surprise or two.
  - An inviting lead draws the reader in; a satisfying conclusion ties up loose ends and leaves the reader with something to think about.
  - Pacing feels natural and right; the writer knows just when to linger over details and when to get moving.
  - Organization flows so smoothly the reader does not need to think about it.
- 3 The organizational structure guides the reader through the text without too much conclusion.
  - Sequencing and placement of details seem reasonably appropriate and workable, given the main theme or story line.
  - The introduction and conclusion are recognizable and functional.
  - Predictable moments, unfortunately, outweigh surprises.
  - Transitions are usually present but sometimes reinforce obvious connections.
  - Structure may be so dominant that it smothers ideas or voice.
  - The piece has a developing sense of balance; the writer is still sorting critical information from filler.
- 1 Ideas, details, or events seem loosely strung together. The reader struggles to discover a clear direction or purpose. The writing reflects more than one of these problems:
  - As yet, there is no identifiable structure to carry the reader from point to point.
  - No real lead sets up what follows. No real conclusion wraps things up.
  - Missing or unclear transitions force the reader to make giant leaps.
  - Sequencing feels more random than purposeful.
  - The writing does not build to a high point or turning point.

### Organization

- ✓ Internal structure
- ✓ Charting a path



## VOICE



*Voice is the presence of the writer on the page. When the writer's passion for the topic and concern for the audience are strong, the text virtually dances with life and energy, and the reader feels a strong connection to both writing and writer.*

- 5 The writer's energy and passion for the subject drive the writing, making the text lively, expressive, and engaging.
  - The tone and flavor of the piece fit the topic, purpose, and audience well.
  - Clearly, the writing belongs to this writer and no other.
  - The writer's sense of connection to the reader is evident.
  - Narrative text is open, honest, and revealing.
  - Expository or persuasive text is provocative, lively, and compelling.
- 3 The writer seems sincere and willing to communicate with the reader on a functional, if somewhat distant, level.
  - The writer has not quite found his or her voice but is experimenting.
  - Moments here and there amuse, surprise, or move the reader.
  - The writer often seems reluctant to "let go" and thus holds individuality, passion, and spontaneity in check.
  - The writer is "there"—then gone!
  - Though aware of an audience, the writer only occasionally speaks right to that audience.
  - The writer often seems right on the verge of sharing something truly interesting—but then backs away as if thinking better of it.
- 1 The writer seems significantly distanced from topic, audience, or both, as a result, the text may lack life, spirit, or energy. The writing reflects more than one of these problems:
  - The writer does not seem to reach out to the audience or to anticipate their interests and needs.
  - The writing takes no risks and does not involve or move the reader.
  - The writer does not yet seem sufficiently at home with this topic to personalize it for the reader.

### Voice

- ✓ Fingerprints on the page

