### 6-Trait One Pager

**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.

*The paper is clear, focused, purposeful, and enhanced by significant detail that captures a reader's interest.*

- Idea: The paper creates a vivid impression, makes a clear point, or tells a whole story, without bogging down in trivia.
- Details: Thoughts are clearly expressed and directly relevant to a well-defined main theme or story.
- Quality: The writer uses information to make the topic understandable and interesting. The writing has the ring of authenticity.
- Details: Quality details consistently inform or engage the reader—or just expand his or her thinking.

**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, however, the writer looks 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.

*The order of 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: The order seems to fit right where they are placed—though the order is often enlivened by a surprise or two.
- Transitions: An inviting lead draws the reader in; a satisfying conclusion ties up loose ends and leaves the reader with something to think about.
- Pacing: The writer knows just when to linger over details and when to get moving.
- Organization: Organization flows so smoothly the reader does not need to think about it.

**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.

*The writer's energy and passion for the subject drive the writing, making the text lively, expressive, and engaging.*

- The writer's voice is clear and compelling, creating a vivid impression.
- The writer's voice is rich in details that inform or engage the reader.
- The writer's voice is engaging, leaving the reader with something to think about.
- The writer's voice flows so smoothly the reader does not need to think about it.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Ideas</th>
<th>Organization</th>
<th>Voice</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>✓ Heart of the message</td>
<td>✓ Internal structure</td>
<td>✓ Fingerprints on the page</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>✓ Quality details</td>
<td>✓ Charting a path</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

---

*[Adapted from Spandel and Siggins, Creating Writers, 1997; Addison-Wesley/Lonman.]*