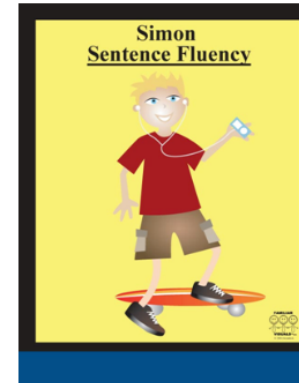


# Six Traits of Writing and the Common Core Connection

Ideas Organization Voice Word Choice Sentence Fluency Conventions



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## Kindergarten

### Text Types and Purposes

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1. Use a combination of drawing, dictating, and writing to compose opinion pieces in which they tell a reader the topic or the name of the book they are writing about and state an opinion or preference about the topic or book (e.g., *My favorite book is...*).
2. Use a combination of drawing, dictating, and writing to compose informative/explanatory texts in which they name what they are writing about and supply some information about the topic.
3. Use a combination of drawing, dictating, and writing to narrate a single event or several loosely linked events, tell about the events in the order in which they occurred, and provide a reaction to what happened.

### Production and Distribution of Writing

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4. (Begins in grade 3)

Adapted from the Common Core State Standards [www.corestandards.org](http://www.corestandards.org)

# Six Traits of Writing and the Common Core Connection

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

(Kindergarten Cont.)

5. With guidance and support from adults, respond to questions and suggestions from peers and add details to strengthen writing as needed.
6. With guidance and support from adults, explore a variety of digital tools to produce and publish writing, including in collaboration with peers.

## Research to Build and Present Knowledge

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7. Participate in shared research and writing projects (e.g., explore a number of books by a favorite author and express opinions about them).
8. With guidance and support from adults, recall information from experiences or gather information from provided sources to answer a question.
9. (Begins in grade 4)

## Range of Writing

10. (Begins in grade 3)

## Conventions of Standard English

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1. Demonstrate command of the conventions of standard English grammar and usage when writing or speaking.
  - Print many upper- and lowercase letters.
  - Use frequently occurring nouns and verbs.
  - Form regular plural nouns orally by adding /s/ or /es/ (e.g., *dog, dogs; wish, wishes*).
  - Understand and use question words (interrogatives) (e.g., *who, what, where, when, why, how*).
  - Use the most frequently occurring prepositions (e.g., *to, from, in, out, on, off, for, of, by, with*).
  - Produce and expand complete sentences in shared language activities.

Adapted from the Common Core State Standards [www.corestandards.org](http://www.corestandards.org)

# Six Traits of Writing and the Common Core Connection

Ideas Organization Voice Word Choice Sentence Fluency Conventions

(Kindergarten Cont.)

2. Demonstrate command of the conventions of standard English capitalization, punctuation, and spelling when writing.

- Capitalize the first word in a sentence and the pronoun *I*.
- Recognize and name end punctuation.
- Write a letter or letters for most consonant and short-vowel sounds (phonemes).
- Spell simple words phonetically, drawing on knowledge of sound-letter relationships.

## Knowledge of Language

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3. (Begins in grade 2)

## Vocabulary Acquisition and Use

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4. Determine or clarify the meaning of unknown and multiple-meaning words and phrases based on kindergarten reading and content.

- Identify new meanings for familiar words and apply them accurately (e.g., knowing *duck* is a bird and learning the verb to *duck*).
- Use the most frequently occurring inflections and affixes (e.g., *-ed*, *-s*, *re-*, *un-*, *pre-*, *-ful*, *-less*) as a clue to the meaning of an unknown word.

5. With guidance and support from adults, explore word relationships and nuances in word meanings.

- Sort common objects into categories (e.g., shapes, foods) to gain a sense of the concepts the categories represent.
- Demonstrate understanding of frequently occurring verbs and adjectives by relating them to their opposites (antonyms).
- Identify real-life connections between words and their use (e.g., note places at school that are colorful).
- Distinguish shades of meaning among verbs describing the same general action (e.g., *walk*, *march*, *strut*, *prance*) by acting out the meanings.

6. Use words and phrases acquired through conversations, reading and being read to, and responding to texts.

# Six Traits of Writing and the Common Core Connection

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

## First Grade

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### Text Types and Purposes

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1. Write opinion pieces in which they introduce the topic or name the book they are writing about, state an opinion, supply a reason for the opinion, and provide some sense of closure.
2. Write informative/explanatory texts in which they name a topic, supply some facts about the topic, and provide some sense of closure.
3. Write narratives in which they recount two or more appropriately sequenced events, include some details regarding what happened, use temporal words to signal event order, and provide some sense of closure.

### Production and Distribution of Writing

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4. (Begins in grade 3)
5. With guidance and support from adults, focus on a topic, respond to questions and suggestions from peers, and add details to strengthen writing as needed.
6. With guidance and support from adults, use a variety of digital tools to produce and publish writing, including in collaboration with peers.

### Research to Build and Present Knowledge

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7. Participate in shared research and writing projects (e.g., explore a number of “how-to” books on a given topic and use them to write a sequence of instructions).
8. With guidance and support from adults, recall information from experiences or gather information from provided sources to answer a question.
9. (Begins in grade 4)

Adapted from the Common Core State Standards [www.corestandards.org](http://www.corestandards.org)

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# Six Traits of Writing and the Common Core Connection

Ideas Organization Voice Word Choice Sentence Fluency Conventions

(First Grade Cont.)

## Range of Writing

---

10. (Begins in grade 3)

## Conventions of Standard English

---

1. Demonstrate command of the conventions of standard English grammar and usage when writing or speaking.

- Print all upper- and lowercase letters.
- Use common, proper, and possessive nouns.
- Use singular and plural nouns with matching verbs in basic sentences (e.g., He hops; We hop).
- Use personal, possessive, and indefinite pronouns (e.g., I, me, my; they, them, their, anyone, everything).
- Use verbs to convey a sense of past, present, and future (e.g., Yesterday I walked home; Today I walk home; Tomorrow I will walk home).
- Use frequently occurring adjectives.
- Use frequently occurring conjunctions (e.g., *and, but, or, so, because*).
- Use determiners (e.g., articles, demonstratives).
- Use frequently occurring prepositions (e.g., *during, beyond, toward*).
- Produce and expand complete simple and compound declarative, interrogative, imperative, and exclamatory sentences in response to prompts.

2. Demonstrate command of the conventions of standard English capitalization, punctuation, and spelling when writing.

- Capitalize dates and names of people.
- Use end punctuation for sentences.
- Use commas in dates and to separate single words in a series.
- Use conventional spelling for words with common spelling patterns and for frequently occurring irregular words.
- Spell untaught words phonetically, drawing on phonemic awareness and spelling conventions.

# Six Traits of Writing and the Common Core Connection

Ideas Organization Voice Word Choice Sentence Fluency Conventions

(First Grade Cont.)

## Knowledge of Language

---

3. (Begins in grade 2)

## Vocabulary Acquisition and Use

---

4. Determine or clarify the meaning of unknown and multiple-meaning words and phrases based on *grade 1 reading and content*, choosing flexibly from an array of strategies.

- Use sentence-level context as a clue to the meaning of a word or phrase.
- Use frequently occurring affixes as a clue to the meaning of a word.
- Identify frequently occurring root words (e.g., *look*) and their inflectional forms (e.g., *looks, looked, looking*).

## Vocabulary Acquisition and Use

---

5. With guidance and support from adults, demonstrate understanding of figurative language, word relationships and nuances in word meanings.

- Sort words into categories (e.g., colors, clothing) to gain a sense of the concepts the categories represent.
- Define words by category and by one or more key attributes (e.g., a *duck* is a bird that swims; a *tiger* is a large cat with stripes).
- Identify real-life connections between words and their use (e.g., note places at home that are *cozy*).
- Distinguish shades of meaning among verbs differing in manner (e.g., *look, peek, glance, stare, glare, scowl*) and adjectives differing in intensity (e.g., *large, gigantic*) by defining or choosing them or by acting out the meanings.

6. Use words and phrases acquired through conversations, reading and being read to, and responding to texts, including using frequently occurring conjunctions to signal simple relationships (e.g., *because*).

# Six Traits of Writing and the Common Core Connection

Ideas Organization Voice Word Choice Sentence Fluency Conventions

## Second Grade

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### Text Types and Purposes

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1. Write opinion pieces in which they introduce the topic or book they are writing about, state an opinion, supply reasons that support the opinion, use linking words (e.g., *because*, *and*, *also*) to connect opinion and reasons, and provide a concluding statement or section.
2. Write informative/explanatory texts in which they introduce a topic, use facts and definitions to develop points, and provide a concluding statement or section.
3. Write narratives in which they recount a well-elaborated event or short sequence of events, include details to describe actions, thoughts, and feelings, use temporal words to signal event order, and provide a sense of closure.

### Production and Distribution of Writing

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4. (Begins in grade 3)
5. With guidance and support from adults and peers, focus on a topic and strengthen writing as needed by revising and editing.
6. With guidance and support from adults, use a variety of digital tools to produce and publish writing, including in collaboration with peers.

### Research to Build and Present Knowledge

---

7. Participate in shared research and writing projects (e.g., read a number of books on a single topic to produce a report; record science observations).
8. Recall information from experiences or gather information from provided sources to answer a question.

# Six Traits of Writing and the Common Core Connection

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

(Second Grade Cont.)

9. (Begins in grade 4)

## Range of Writing

---

10. (Begins in grade 3)

## Conventions of Standard English

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1. Demonstrate command of the conventions of standard English grammar and usage when writing or speaking.

- Use collective nouns (e.g., *group*).
- Form and use frequently occurring irregular plural nouns (e.g., *feet, children, teeth, mice, fish*).
- Use reflexive pronouns (e.g., *myself, ourselves*).
- Form and use the past tense of frequently occurring irregular verbs (e.g., *sat, hid, told*).
- Use adjectives and adverbs, and choose between them depending on what is to be modified.
- Produce, expand, and rearrange complete simple and compound sentences (e.g., *The boy watched the movie; The little boy watched the movie; The action movie was watched by the little boy*).

2. Demonstrate command of the conventions of standard English capitalization, punctuation, and spelling when writing.

- Capitalize holidays, product names, and geographic names.
- Use commas in greetings and closings of letters.
- Use an apostrophe to form contractions and frequently occurring possessives.
- Generalize learned spelling patterns when writing words (e.g., *cage* → *badge*; *boy* → *boil*).
- Consult reference materials, including beginning dictionaries, as needed to check and correct spellings.



# Six Traits of Writing and the Common Core Connection

Ideas   Organization   Voice   Word Choice   Sentence Fluency   Conventions

(Second Grade Cont.)

## Knowledge of Language

---

3. Use knowledge of language and its conventions when writing, speaking, reading, or listening.

- Compare formal and informal uses of English.

## Vocabulary Acquisition and Use

---

4. Determine or clarify the meaning of unknown and multiple-meaning words and phrases based on grade 2 reading and content, choosing flexibly from an array of strategies.

- Use sentence-level context as a clue to the meaning of a word or phrase.
- Determine the meaning of the new word formed when a known prefix is added to a known word (e.g., *happy/unhappy*, *tell/retell*).
- Use a known root word as a clue to the meaning of an unknown word with the same root (e.g., *addition*, *additional*).
- Use knowledge of the meaning of individual words to predict the meaning of compound words (e.g., *birdhouse*, *lighthouse*, *housefly*; *bookshelf*, *notebook*, *bookmark*).
- Use glossaries and beginning dictionaries, both print and digital, to determine or clarify the meaning of words and phrases.

## Vocabulary Acquisition and Use

---

5. Demonstrate understanding of figurative language, word relationships and nuances in word meanings.

- Identify real-life connections between words and their use (e.g., *describe foods that are spicy or juicy*).
- Distinguish shades of meaning among closely related verbs (e.g., *toss*, *throw*, *hurl*) and closely related adjectives (e.g., *thin*, *slender*, *skinny*, *scrawny*).

6. Use words and phrases acquired through conversations, reading and being read to, and responding to texts, including using adjectives and adverbs to describe (e.g., *When other kids are happy that makes me happy*).

Adapted from the Common Core State Standards [www.corestandards.org](http://www.corestandards.org)

# Six Traits of Writing and the Common Core Connection

Ideas Organization Voice Word Choice Sentence Fluency Conventions

## Third Grade

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### Text Types and Purposes

---

1. Write opinion pieces on topics or texts, supporting a point of view with reasons.
  - Introduce the topic or text they are writing about, state an opinion, and create an organizational structure that lists reasons.
  - Provide reasons that support the opinion.
  - Use linking words and phrases (e.g., *because, therefore, since, for example*) to connect opinion and reasons.
  - Provide a concluding statement or section.
2. Write informative/explanatory texts to examine a topic and convey ideas and information clearly.
  - Introduce a topic and group related information together; include illustrations when useful to aiding comprehension.
  - Develop the topic with facts, definitions, and details.
  - Use linking words and phrases (e.g., *also, another, and, more, but*) to connect ideas within categories of information.
  - Provide a concluding statement or section.
3. Write narratives to develop real or imagined experiences or events using effective technique, descriptive details, and clear event sequences.
  - Establish a situation and introduce a narrator and/or characters; organize an event sequence that unfolds naturally.
  - Use dialogue and descriptions of actions, thoughts, and feelings to develop experiences and events or show the response of characters to situations.
  - Use temporal words and phrases to signal event order.
  - Provide a sense of closure.

### Production and Distribution of Writing

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4. With guidance and support from adults, produce writing in which the development and organization are appropriate to task and purpose. (Grade-specific expectations for writing types are defined in standards 1–3 above.)

Adapted from the Common Core State Standards [www.corestandards.org](http://www.corestandards.org)

# Six Traits of Writing and the Common Core Connection

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

(Third Grade Cont.)

5. With guidance and support from peers and adults, develop and strengthen writing as needed by planning, revising, and editing.
6. With guidance and support from adults, use technology to produce and publish writing (using keyboarding skills) as well as to interact and collaborate with others.

## Research to Build and Present Knowledge

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7. Conduct short research projects that build knowledge about a topic.
8. Recall information from experiences or gather information from print and digital sources; take brief notes on sources and sort evidence into provided categories.
9. (Begins in grade 4)

## Range of Writing

---

10. Write routinely over extended time frames (time for research, reflection, and revision) and shorter time frames (a single sitting or a day or two) for a range of discipline-specific tasks, purposes, and audiences.

## Conventions of Standard English

---

1. Demonstrate command of the conventions of standard English grammar and usage when writing or speaking.
  - Explain the function of nouns, pronouns, verbs, adjectives, and adverbs in general and their functions in particular sentences.
  - Form and use regular and irregular plural nouns.
  - Use abstract nouns (e.g., *childhood*).
  - Form and use regular and irregular verbs.

Adapted from the Common Core State Standards [www.corestandards.org](http://www.corestandards.org)

# Six Traits of Writing and the Common Core Connection

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

(Third Grade Cont.)

- Form and use the simple (e.g., *I walked*; *I walk*; *I will walk*) verb tenses.
- Ensure subject-verb and pronoun-antecedent agreement.\*
- Form and use comparative and superlative adjectives and adverbs, and choose between them depending on what is to be modified.
- Use coordinating and subordinating conjunctions.
- Produce simple, compound, and complex sentences.

2. Demonstrate command of the conventions of standard English capitalization, punctuation, and spelling when writing.

- Capitalize appropriate words in titles.
- Use commas in addresses.
- Use commas and quotation marks in dialogue.
- Form and use possessives.
- Use conventional spelling for high-frequency and other studied words and for adding suffixes to base words (e.g., *sitting*, *smiled*, *cries*, *happiness*).
- Use spelling patterns and generalizations (e.g., *word families*, *position-based spellings*, *syllable patterns*, *ending rules*, *meaningful word parts*) in writing.
- Consult reference materials, including beginning dictionaries, as needed to check and correct spellings.

## Knowledge of Language

---

3. Use knowledge of language and its conventions when writing, speaking, reading, or listening.

- Choose words and phrases for effect.
- Recognize and observe differences between the conventions of spoken and written standard English.

# Six Traits of Writing and the Common Core Connection

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

(Third Grade Cont.)

## Vocabulary Acquisition and Use

---

4. Determine or clarify the meaning of unknown and multiple-meaning word and phrases based on grade 3 reading and content, choosing flexibly from a range of strategies.

- Use sentence-level context as a clue to the meaning of a word or phrase.
- Determine the meaning of the new word formed when a known affix is added to a known word (e.g., *agreeable/disagreeable*, *comfortable/uncomfortable*, *care/careless*, *heat/preheat*).
- Use a known root word as a clue to the meaning of an unknown word with the same root (e.g., *company*, *companion*).
- Use glossaries or beginning dictionaries, both print and digital, to determine or clarify the precise meaning of key words and phrases.

5. Demonstrate understanding of figurative language, word relationships and nuances in word meanings.

- Distinguish the literal and non-literal meanings of words and phrases in context (e.g., *take steps*).
- Identify real-life connections between words and their use (e.g., describe people who are *friendly* or *helpful*).
- Distinguish shades of meaning among related words that describe states of mind or degrees of certainty (e.g., *knew*, *believed*, *suspected*, *heard*, *wondered*).

6. Acquire and use accurately grade-appropriate conversational, general academic, and domain-specific words and phrases, including those that signal spatial and temporal relationships (e.g., *After dinner that night we went looking for them*).

## Fourth Grade

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### Text Types and Purposes

---

1. Write opinion pieces on topics or texts, supporting a point of view with reasons and information.

# Six Traits of Writing and the Common Core Connection

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

(Fourth Grade Cont.)

- Introduce a topic or text clearly, state an opinion, and create an organizational structure in which related ideas are grouped to support the writer's purpose.
- Provide reasons that are supported by facts and details.
- Link opinion and reasons using words and phrases (e.g., *for instance, in order to, in addition*).
- Provide a concluding statement or section related to the opinion presented.

2. Write informative/explanatory texts to examine a topic and convey ideas and information clearly.

- Introduce a topic clearly and group related information in paragraphs and sections; include formatting (e.g., headings), illustrations, and multimedia when useful to aiding comprehension.
- Develop the topic with facts, definitions, concrete details, quotations, or other information and examples related to the topic.
- Link ideas within categories of information using words and phrases (e.g., *another, for example, also, because*).
- Use precise language and domain-specific vocabulary to inform about or explain the topic.
- Provide a concluding statement or section related to the information or explanation presented.

3. Write narratives to develop real or imagined experiences or events using effective technique, descriptive details, and clear event sequences.

- Orient the reader by establishing a situation and introducing a narrator and/or characters; organize an event sequence that unfolds naturally.
- Use dialogue and description to develop experiences and events or show the responses of characters to situations.
- Use a variety of transitional words and phrases to manage the sequence of events.
- Use concrete words and phrases and sensory details to convey experiences and events precisely.
- Provide a conclusion that follows from the narrated experiences or events.

## Production and Distribution of Writing

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4. Produce clear and coherent writing in which the development and organization are appropriate to task, purpose, and audience. (Grade-specific expectations for writing types are defined in standards 1–3 above.)

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# Six Traits of Writing and the Common Core Connection

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

(Fourth Grade Cont.)

5. With guidance and support from peers and adults, develop and strengthen writing as needed by planning, revising, and editing.
6. With some guidance and support from adults, use technology, including the Internet, to produce and publish writing as well as to interact and collaborate with others; demonstrate sufficient command of keyboarding skills to type a minimum of one page in a single sitting.

## Research to Build and Present Knowledge

---

7. Conduct short research projects that build knowledge through investigation of different aspects of a topic.
8. Recall relevant information from experiences or gather relevant information from print and digital sources; take notes and categorize information, and provide a list of sources.
9. Draw evidence from literary or informational texts to support analysis, reflection, and research.
  - Apply *grade 4 Reading standards* to literature (e.g., “Describe in depth a character, setting, or event in a story or drama, drawing on specific details in the text [e.g., a character’s thoughts, words, or actions].”).
  - Apply *grade 4 Reading standards* to informational texts (e.g., “Explain how an author uses reasons and evidence to support particular points in a text”).

## Range of Writing

---

10. Write routinely over extended time frames (time for research, reflection, and revision) and shorter time frames (a single sitting or a day or two) for a range of discipline-specific tasks, purposes, and audiences.

## Conventions of Standard English

---

1. Demonstrate command of the conventions of standard English grammar and usage when writing or speaking.

Adapted from the Common Core State Standards [www.corestandards.org](http://www.corestandards.org)

# Six Traits of Writing and the Common Core Connection

Ideas   Organization   Voice   Word Choice   Sentence Fluency   Conventions

(Fourth Grade Cont.)

- Use relative pronouns (*who, whose, whom, which, that*) and relative adverbs (*where, when, why*).
- Form and use the progressive (e.g., *I was walking; I am walking; I will be walking*) verb tenses.
- Use modal auxiliaries (e.g., *can, may, must*) to convey various conditions.
- Order adjectives within sentences according to conventional patterns (e.g., *a small red bag* rather than *a red small bag*).
- Form and use prepositional phrases.
- Produce complete sentences, recognizing and correcting inappropriate fragments and run-ons.
- Correctly use frequently confused words (e.g., *to, too, two; there, their*).

2. Demonstrate command of the conventions of standard English capitalization, punctuation, and spelling when writing.

- Use correct capitalization.
- Use commas and quotation marks to mark direct speech and quotations from a text.
- Use a comma before a coordinating conjunction in a compound sentence.
- Spell grade-appropriate words correctly, consulting references as needed.

## Knowledge of Language

---

3. Use knowledge of language and its conventions when writing, speaking, reading, or listening.

- Choose words and phrases to convey ideas precisely.
- Choose punctuation for effect.
- Differentiate between contexts that call for formal English (e.g., presenting ideas) and situations where informal discourse is appropriate (e.g., small-group discussion).



# Six Traits of Writing and the Common Core Connection

Ideas Organization Voice Word Choice Sentence Fluency Conventions

(Fourth Grade Cont.)

## Vocabulary Acquisition and Use

---

4. Determine or clarify the meaning of unknown and multiple-meaning words and phrases based on grade 4 reading and content, choosing flexibly from a range of strategies.

- Use context (e.g., definitions, examples, or restatements in text) as a clue to the meaning of a word or phrase.
- Use common, grade-appropriate Greek and Latin affixes and roots as clues to the meaning of a word (e.g., *telegraph*, *photograph*, *autograph*).
- Consult reference materials (e.g., dictionaries, glossaries, thesauruses), both print and digital, to find the pronunciation and determine or clarify the precise meaning of key words and phrases.

5. Demonstrate understanding of figurative language, word relationships, and nuances in word meanings.

- Explain the meaning of simple similes and metaphors (e.g., *as pretty as a picture*) in context.
- Recognize and explain the meaning of common idioms, adages, and proverbs.
- Demonstrate understanding of words by relating them to their opposites (antonyms) and to words with similar but not identical meanings (synonyms).

6. Acquire and use accurately grade-appropriate general academic and domain-specific words and phrases, including those that signal precise actions, emotions, or states of being (e.g., quizzed, whined, stammered) and that are basic to a particular topic (e.g., *wildlife*, *conservation*, and *endangered* when discussing animal preservation).

# Six Traits of Writing and the Common Core Connection

Ideas Organization Voice Word Choice Sentence Fluency Conventions

## Fifth Grade

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### Text Types and Purposes

---

1. Write opinion pieces on topics or texts, supporting a point of view with reasons and information.
  - Introduce a topic or text clearly, state an opinion, and create an organizational structure in which ideas are logically grouped to support the writer's purpose.
  - Provide logically ordered reasons that are supported by facts and details.
  - Link opinion and reasons using words, phrases, and clauses (e.g., *consequently*, *specifically*).
  - Provide a concluding statement or section related to the opinion presented.
2. Write informative/explanatory texts to examine a topic and convey ideas and information clearly.
  - Introduce a topic clearly, provide a general observation and focus, and group related information logically; include formatting (e.g., headings), illustrations, and multimedia when useful to aiding comprehension.
  - Develop the topic with facts, definitions, concrete details, quotations, or other information and examples related to the topic.
  - Link ideas within and across categories of information using words, phrases, and clauses (e.g., *in contrast*, *especially*).
  - Use precise language and domain-specific vocabulary to inform about or explain the topic.
  - Provide a concluding statement or section related to the information or explanation presented.
3. Write narratives to develop real or imagined experiences or events using effective technique, descriptive details, and clear event sequences.
  - Orient the reader by establishing a situation and introducing a narrator and/or characters; organize an event sequence that unfolds naturally.
  - Use narrative techniques, such as dialogue, description, and pacing, to develop experiences and events or show the responses of characters to situations.
  - Use a variety of transitional words, phrases, and clauses to manage the sequence of events.
  - Use concrete words and phrases and sensory details to convey experiences and events precisely.
  - Provide a conclusion that follows from the narrated experiences or events.

# Six Traits of Writing and the Common Core Connection

Ideas   Organization   Voice   Word Choice   Sentence Fluency   Conventions

(Fifth Grade Cont.)

## Production and Distribution of Writing

---

4. Produce clear and coherent writing in which the development and organization are appropriate to task, purpose, and audience. (Grade-specific expectations for writing types are defined in standards 1–3 above.)
5. With guidance and support from peers and adults, develop and strengthen writing as needed by planning, revising, editing, rewriting, or trying a new approach.
6. With some guidance and support from adults, use technology, including the Internet, to produce and publish writing as well as to interact and collaborate with others; demonstrate sufficient command of keyboarding skills to type a minimum of two pages in a single sitting.

## Research to Build and Present Knowledge

---

7. Conduct short research projects that use several sources to build knowledge through investigation of different aspects of a topic.
8. Recall relevant information from experiences or gather relevant information from print and digital sources; summarize or paraphrase information in notes and finished work, and provide a list of sources.
9. Draw evidence from literary or informational texts to support analysis, reflection, and research.
  - Apply *grade 5 Reading standards* to literature (e.g., “Compare and contrast two or more characters, settings, or events in a story or a drama, drawing on specific details in the text [e.g., how characters interact]”).
  - Apply *grade 5 Reading standards* to informational texts (e.g., “Explain how an author uses reasons and evidence to support particular points in a text, identifying which reasons and evidence support which point[s]”).

# Six Traits of Writing and the Common Core Connection

Ideas Organization Voice Word Choice Sentence Fluency Conventions

(Fifth Grade Cont.)

## Range of Writing

---

10. Write routinely over extended time frames (time for research, reflection, and revision) and shorter time frames (a single sitting or a day or two) for a range of discipline-specific tasks, purposes, and audiences.

## Conventions of Standard English

---

1. Demonstrate command of the conventions of standard English grammar and usage when writing or speaking.

- Explain the function of conjunctions, prepositions, and interjections in general and their function in particular sentences.
- Form and use the perfect (e.g., *I had walked*; *I have walked*; *I will have walked*) verb tenses.
- Use verb tense to convey various times, sequences, states, and conditions.
- Recognize and correct inappropriate shifts in verb tense.
- Use correlative conjunctions (e.g., *either/or*, *neither/nor*).

2. Demonstrate command of the conventions of standard English capitalization, punctuation, and spelling when writing.

- Use punctuation to separate items in a series.\*
- Use a comma to separate an introductory element from the rest of the sentence.
- Use a comma to set off the words *yes* and *no* (e.g., *Yes, thank you*), to set off a tag question from the rest of the sentence (e.g., *It's true, isn't it?*), and to indicate direct address (e.g., *Is that you, Steve?*).
- Use underlining, quotation marks, or italics to indicate titles of works.
- Spell grade-appropriate words correctly, consulting references as needed.

## Knowledge of Language

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3. Use knowledge of language and its conventions when writing, speaking, reading, or listening.

Adapted from the Common Core State Standards [www.corestandards.org](http://www.corestandards.org)

# Six Traits of Writing and the Common Core Connection

Ideas   Organization   Voice   Word Choice   Sentence Fluency   Conventions

(Fifth Grade Cont.)

- Expand, combine, and reduce sentences for meaning, reader/listener interest, and style.
- Compare and contrast the varieties of English (e.g., *dialects*, *registers*) used in stories, dramas, or poems.

## Vocabulary Acquisition and Use

---

4. Determine or clarify the meaning of unknown and multiple-meaning words and phrases based on grade 5 reading and content, choosing flexibly from a range of strategies.

- Use context (e.g., cause/effect relationships and comparisons in text) as a clue to the meaning of a word or phrase.
- Use common, grade-appropriate Greek and Latin affixes and roots as clues to the meaning of a word (e.g., *photograph*, *photosynthesis*).
- Consult reference materials (e.g., dictionaries, glossaries, thesauruses), both print and digital, to find the pronunciation and determine or clarify the precise meaning of key words and phrases.

5. Demonstrate understanding of figurative language, word relationships, and nuances in word meanings.

- Interpret figurative language, including similes and metaphors, in context.
- Recognize and explain the meaning of common idioms, adages, and proverbs.
- Use the relationship between particular words (e.g., synonyms, antonyms, homographs) to better understand each of the words.

6. Acquire and use accurately grade-appropriate general academic and domain-specific words and phrases, including those that signal contrast, addition, and other logical relationships (e.g., *however*, *although*, *nevertheless*, *similarly*, *moreover*, *in addition*).

# Six Traits of Writing and the Common Core Connection

Ideas Organization Voice Word Choice Sentence Fluency Conventions

## Sixth Grade

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### Text Types and Purposes

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1. Write arguments to support claims with clear reasons and relevant evidence.

- Introduce claim(s) and organize the reasons and evidence clearly.
- Support claim(s) with clear reasons and relevant evidence, using credible sources and demonstrating an understanding of the topic or text.
- Use words, phrases, and clauses to clarify the relationships among claim(s) and reasons.
- Establish and maintain a formal style.
- Provide a concluding statement or section that follows from the argument presented.

2. Write informative/explanatory texts to examine a topic and convey ideas, concepts, and information through the selection, organization, and analysis of relevant content.

- Introduce a topic; organize ideas, concepts, and information, using strategies such as definition, classification, comparison/contrast, and cause/effect; include formatting (e.g., headings), graphics (e.g., charts, tables), and multimedia when useful to aiding comprehension.
- Develop the topic with relevant facts, definitions, concrete details, quotations, or other information and examples.
- Use appropriate transitions to clarify the relationships among ideas and concepts.
- Use precise language and domain-specific vocabulary to inform about or explain the topic.
- Establish and maintain a formal style.
- Provide a concluding statement or section that follows from the information or explanation presented.

3. Write narratives to develop real or imagined experiences or events using effective technique, relevant descriptive details, and well-structured event sequences.

- Engage and orient the reader by establishing a context and introducing a narrator and/or characters; organize an event sequence that unfolds naturally and logically.
- Use narrative techniques, such as dialogue, pacing, and description, to develop experiences, events, and/or characters.
- Use a variety of transition words, phrases, and clauses to convey sequence and signal shifts from one time frame or setting to another.
- Use precise words and phrases, relevant descriptive details, and sensory language to convey experiences and events.

Adapted from the Common Core State Standards [www.corestandards.org](http://www.corestandards.org)

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# Six Traits of Writing and the Common Core Connection

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

(Sixth Grade Cont.)

- Provide a conclusion that follows from the narrated experiences or events.

## Production and Distribution of Writing

---

4. Produce clear and coherent writing in which the development, organization, and style are appropriate to task, purpose, and audience. (Grade-specific expectations for writing types are defined in standards 1–3 above.)
5. With some guidance and support from peers and adults, develop and strengthen writing as needed by planning, revising, editing, rewriting, or trying a new approach.
6. Use technology, including the Internet, to produce and publish writing as well as to interact and collaborate with others; demonstrate sufficient command of keyboarding skills to type a minimum of three pages in a single sitting.

## Research to Build and Present Knowledge

---

7. Conduct short research projects to answer a question, drawing on several sources and refocusing the inquiry when appropriate.
8. Gather relevant information from multiple print and digital sources; assess the credibility of each source; and quote or paraphrase the data and conclusions of others while avoiding plagiarism and providing basic bibliographic information for sources.
9. Draw evidence from literary or informational texts to support analysis, reflection, and research.
  - Apply *grade 6 Reading standards* to literature (e.g., “Compare and contrast texts in different forms or genres [e.g., stories and poems; historical novels and fantasy stories] in terms of their approaches to similar themes and topics”).
  - Apply *grade 6 Reading standards* to literary nonfiction (e.g., “Trace and evaluate the argument and specific claims in a text, distinguishing claims that are supported by reasons and evidence from claims that are not”).

Adapted from the Common Core State Standards [www.corestandards.org](http://www.corestandards.org)

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# Six Traits of Writing and the Common Core Connection

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

(Sixth Grade Cont.)

## Range of Writing

10. Write routinely over extended time frames (time for research, reflection, and revision) and shorter time frames (a single sitting or a day or two) for a range of discipline-specific tasks, purposes, and audiences.

## Conventions of Standard English

---

1. Demonstrate command of the conventions of standard English grammar and usage when writing or speaking.

- Ensure that pronouns are in the proper case (subjective, objective, possessive).
- Use intensive pronouns (e.g., *myself*, *ourselves*).
- Recognize and correct inappropriate shifts in pronoun number and person.\*
- Recognize and correct vague pronouns (i.e., ones with unclear or ambiguous antecedents).\*
- Recognize variations from standard English in their own and others' writing and speaking, and identify and use strategies to improve expression in conventional language.\*

2. Demonstrate command of the conventions of standard English capitalization, punctuation, and spelling when writing.

- Use punctuation (commas, parentheses, dashes) to set off nonrestrictive/parenthetical elements.\*
- Spell correctly.

## Knowledge of Language

---

3. Use knowledge of language and its conventions when writing, speaking, reading, or listening.

- Vary sentence patterns for meaning, reader/listener interest, and style.
- Maintain consistency in style and tone.

Adapted from the Common Core State Standards [www.corestandards.org](http://www.corestandards.org)



# Six Traits of Writing and the Common Core Connection

Ideas Organization Voice Word Choice Sentence Fluency Conventions

(Sixth Grade Cont.)

## Vocabulary Acquisition and Use

---

4. Determine or clarify the meaning of unknown and multiple-meaning words and phrases based on grade 6 reading and content, choosing flexibly from a range of strategies.

- Use context (e.g., the overall meaning of a sentence or paragraph; a word's position or function in a sentence) as a clue to the meaning of a word or phrase.
- Use common, grade-appropriate Greek or Latin affixes and roots as clues to the meaning of a word (e.g., *audience*, *auditory*, *audible*).
- Consult reference materials (e.g., dictionaries, glossaries, thesauruses), both print and digital, to find the pronunciation of a word or determine or clarify its precise meaning or its part of speech.
- Verify the preliminary determination of the meaning of a word or phrase (e.g., by checking the inferred meaning in context or in a dictionary).

5. Demonstrate understanding of figurative language, word relationships, and nuances in word meanings.

- Interpret figures of speech (e.g., personification) in context.
- Use the relationship between particular words (e.g., cause/effect, part/whole, item/category) to better understand each of the words.
- Distinguish among the connotations (associations) of words with similar denotations (definitions) (e.g., *stingy*, *scrimping*, *economical*, *unwasteful*, *thrifty*).

6. Acquire and use accurately grade-appropriate general academic and domain-specific words and phrases; gather vocabulary knowledge when considering a word or phrase important to comprehension or expression.

# Six Traits of Writing and the Common Core Connection

Ideas Organization Voice Word Choice Sentence Fluency Conventions

## Seventh Grade

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### Text Types and Purposes

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1. Write arguments to support claims with clear reasons and relevant evidence.

- Introduce claim(s), acknowledge alternate or opposing claims, and organize the reasons and evidence logically.
- Support claim(s) with logical reasoning and relevant evidence, using accurate, credible sources and demonstrating an understanding of the topic or text.
- Use words, phrases, and clauses to create cohesion and clarify the relationships among claim(s), reasons, and evidence.
- Establish and maintain a formal style.
- Provide a concluding statement or section that follows from and supports the argument presented.

2. Write informative/explanatory texts to examine a topic and convey ideas, concepts, and information through the selection, organization, and analysis of relevant content.

- Introduce a topic clearly, previewing what is to follow; organize ideas, concepts, and information, using strategies such as definition, classification, comparison/contrast, and cause/effect; include formatting (e.g., headings), graphics (e.g., charts, tables), and multimedia when useful to aiding comprehension.
- Develop the topic with relevant facts, definitions, concrete details, quotations, or other information and examples.
- Use appropriate transitions to create cohesion and clarify the relationships among ideas and concepts.
- Use precise language and domain-specific vocabulary to inform about or explain the topic.
- Establish and maintain a formal style.
- Provide a concluding statement or section that follows from and supports the information or explanation presented.

3. Write narratives to develop real or imagined experiences or events using effective technique, relevant descriptive details, and well-structured event sequences.

- Engage and orient the reader by establishing a context and point of view and introducing a narrator and/or characters; organize an event sequence that unfolds naturally and logically.
- Use narrative techniques, such as dialogue, pacing, and description, to develop experiences, events, and/or characters.
- Use a variety of transition words, phrases, and clauses to convey sequence and signal shifts from one time frame or setting to another.

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# Six Traits of Writing and the Common Core Connection

Ideas Organization Voice Word Choice Sentence Fluency Conventions

(Seventh Grade Cont.)

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- Use precise words and phrases, relevant descriptive details, and sensory language to capture the action and convey experiences and events.
- Provide a conclusion that follows from and reflects on the narrated experiences or events.

## Production and Distribution of Writing

---

4. Produce clear and coherent writing in which the development, organization, and style are appropriate to task, purpose, and audience. (Grade-specific expectations for writing types are defined in standards 1–3 above.)
5. With some guidance and support from peers and adults, develop and strengthen writing as needed by planning, revising, editing, rewriting, or trying a new approach, focusing on how well purpose and audience have been addressed.
6. Use technology, including the Internet, to produce and publish writing and link to and cite sources as well as to interact and collaborate with others, including linking to and citing sources.

## Research to Build and Present Knowledge

---

7. Conduct short research projects to answer a question, drawing on several sources and generating additional related, focused questions for further research and investigation.
8. Gather relevant information from multiple print and digital sources, using search terms effectively; assess the credibility and accuracy of each source; and quote or paraphrase the data and conclusions of others while avoiding plagiarism and following a standard format for citation.
9. Draw evidence from literary or informational texts to support analysis, reflection, and research.
  - Apply *grade 7 Reading standards* to literature (e.g., “Compare and contrast a fictional portrayal of a time, place, or character and a historical account of the same period as a means of understanding how authors of fiction use or alter history”).

Adapted from the Common Core State Standards [www.corestandards.org](http://www.corestandards.org)

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# Six Traits of Writing and the Common Core Connection

Ideas Organization Voice Word Choice Sentence Fluency Conventions

(Seventh Grade Cont.)

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- Apply *grade 7 Reading standards* to literary nonfiction (e.g. “Trace and evaluate the argument and specific claims in a text, assessing whether the reasoning is sound and the evidence is relevant and sufficient to support the claims”).

## Range of Writing

---

10. Write routinely over extended time frames (time for research, reflection, and revision) and shorter time frames (a single sitting or a day or two) for a range of discipline-specific tasks, purposes, and audiences.

## Conventions of Standard English

---

1. Demonstrate command of the conventions of standard English grammar and usage when writing or speaking.
  - Explain the function of phrases and clauses in general and their function in specific sentences.
  - Choose among simple, compound, complex, and compound-complex sentences to signal differing relationships among ideas.
  - Place phrases and clauses within a sentence, recognizing and correcting misplaced and dangling modifiers.
2. Demonstrate command of the conventions of standard English capitalization, punctuation, and spelling when writing.
  - Use a comma to separate coordinate adjectives (e.g., *It was a fascinating, enjoyable movie* but not *He wore an old[,] green shirt*).
  - Spell correctly.

## Knowledge of Language

---

3. Use knowledge of language and its conventions when writing, speaking, reading, or listening.
  - Choose language that expresses ideas precisely and concisely, recognizing and eliminating wordiness and redundancy.

Adapted from the Common Core State Standards [www.corestandards.org](http://www.corestandards.org)

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# Six Traits of Writing and the Common Core Connection

Ideas Organization Voice Word Choice Sentence Fluency Conventions

(Seventh Grade Cont.)

## Vocabulary Acquisition and Use

---

4. Determine or clarify the meaning of unknown & multiple-meaning words and phrases based on *grade 7 reading and content*, choosing flexibly from a range of strategies.

- Use context (e.g., the overall meaning of a sentence or paragraph; a word's position or function in a sentence) as a clue to the meaning of a word or phrase.
- Use common, grade-appropriate Greek or Latin affixes and roots as clues to the meaning of a word (e.g., *belligerent*, *bellicose*, *rebel*).
- Consult general and specialized reference materials (e.g., dictionaries, glossaries, thesauruses), both print and digital, to find the pronunciation of a word or determine or clarify its precise meaning or its part of speech.
- Verify the preliminary determination of the meaning of a word or phrase (e.g., by checking the inferred meaning in context or in a dictionary).

5. Demonstrate understanding of figurative language, word relationships, and nuances in word meanings.

- Interpret figures of speech (e.g., literary, biblical, and mythological allusions) in context.
- Use the relationship between particular words (e.g., synonym/antonym, analogy) to better understand each of the words.
- Distinguish among the connotations (associations) of words with similar denotations (definitions) (e.g., *refined*, *respectful*, *polite*, *diplomatic*, *condescending*).

6. Acquire and use accurately grade-appropriate general academic and domain-specific words and phrases; gather vocabulary knowledge when considering a word or phrase important to comprehension or expression.

# Six Traits of Writing and the Common Core Connection

Ideas   Organization   Voice   Word Choice   Sentence Fluency   Conventions

## Eighth Grade

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### Text Types and Purposes

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1. Write arguments to support claims with clear reasons and relevant evidence.

- Introduce claim(s), acknowledge and distinguish the claim(s) from alternate or opposing claims, and organize the reasons and evidence logically.
- Support claim(s) with logical reasoning and relevant evidence, using accurate, credible sources and demonstrating an understanding of the topic or text.
- Use words, phrases, and clauses to create cohesion and clarify the relationships among claim(s), counterclaims, reasons, and evidence.
- Establish and maintain a formal style.
- Provide a concluding statement or section that follows from and supports the argument presented.

2. Write informative/explanatory texts to examine a topic and convey ideas, concepts, and information through the selection, organization, and analysis of relevant content.

- Introduce a topic clearly, previewing what is to follow; organize ideas, concepts, and information into broader categories; include formatting (e.g., headings), graphics (e.g., charts, tables), and multimedia when useful to aiding comprehension.
- Develop the topic with relevant, well-chosen facts, definitions, concrete details, quotations, or other information and examples.
- Use appropriate and varied transitions to create cohesion and clarify the relationships among ideas and concepts.
- Use precise language and domain-specific vocabulary to inform about or explain the topic.
- Establish and maintain a formal style.
- Provide a concluding statement or section that follows from and supports the information or explanation presented.

3. Write narratives to develop real or imagined experiences or events using effective technique, relevant descriptive details, and well-structured event sequences.

- Engage and orient the reader by establishing a context and point of view and introducing a narrator and/or characters; organize an event sequence that unfolds naturally and logically.
- Use narrative techniques, such as dialogue, pacing, description, and reflection, to develop experiences, events, and/or characters.
- Use a variety of transition words, phrases, and clauses to convey sequence, signal shifts from one time frame or setting to another, and show the relationships among experiences and events.

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# Six Traits of Writing and the Common Core Connection

Ideas Organization Voice Word Choice Sentence Fluency Conventions

(Eighth Grade Cont.)

- Use precise words and phrases, relevant descriptive details, and sensory language to capture the action and convey experiences and events.
- Provide a conclusion that follows from and reflects on the narrated experiences or events.

## Production and Distribution of Writing

---

4. Produce clear and coherent writing in which the development, organization, and style are appropriate to task, purpose, and audience. (Grade-specific expectations for writing types are defined in standards 1–3 above.)
5. With some guidance and support from peers and adults, develop and strengthen writing as needed by planning, revising, editing, rewriting, or trying a new approach, focusing on how well purpose and audience have been addressed.
6. Use technology, including the Internet, to produce and publish writing and present the relationships between information and ideas efficiently as well as to interact and collaborate with others.

## Research to Build and Present Knowledge

---

7. Conduct short research projects to answer a question (including a self-generated question), drawing on several sources and generating additional related, focused questions that allow for multiple avenues of exploration.
8. Gather relevant information from multiple print and digital sources, using search terms effectively; assess the credibility and accuracy of each source; and quote or paraphrase the data and conclusions of others while avoiding plagiarism and following a standard format for citation.
9. Draw evidence from literary or informational texts to support analysis, reflection, and research.
  - Apply *grade 8 Reading standards* to literature (e.g., “Analyze how a modern work of fiction draws on themes, patterns of events, or character types from myths, traditional stories, or religious works such as the Bible, including describing how the material is rendered new”).

Adapted from the Common Core State Standards [www.corestandards.org](http://www.corestandards.org)

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# Six Traits of Writing and the Common Core Connection

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

(Eighth Grade Cont.)

- Apply *grade 8 Reading standards* to literary nonfiction (e.g., “Delineate and evaluate the argument and specific claims in a text, assessing whether the reasoning is sound and the evidence is relevant and sufficient; recognize when irrelevant evidence is introduced”).

## Range of Writing

---

10. Write routinely over extended time frames (time for research, reflection, and revision) and shorter time frames (a single sitting or a day or two).

## Conventions of Standard English

---

1. Demonstrate command of the conventions of standard English grammar and usage when writing or speaking.
  - Explain the function of verbals (gerunds, participles, infinitives) in general and their function in particular sentences.
  - Form and use verbs in the active and passive voice.
  - Form and use verbs in the indicative, imperative, interrogative, conditional, and subjunctive mood.
  - Recognize and correct inappropriate shifts in verb voice and mood.\*
2. Demonstrate command of the conventions of standard English capitalization, punctuation, and spelling when writing.
  - Use punctuation (comma, ellipsis, dash) to indicate a pause or break.
  - Use an ellipsis to indicate an omission.
  - Spell correctly.

## Knowledge of Language

---

3. Use knowledge of language and its conventions when writing, speaking, reading, or listening.

Adapted from the Common Core State Standards [www.corestandards.org](http://www.corestandards.org)

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# Six Traits of Writing and the Common Core Connection

Ideas   Organization   Voice   Word Choice   Sentence Fluency   Conventions

(Eighth Grade Cont.)

- Use verbs in the active and passive voice and in the conditional and subjunctive mood to achieve particular effects (e.g., emphasizing the actor or the action; expressing uncertainty or describing a state contrary to fact).

## Vocabulary Acquisition and Use

---

4. Determine or clarify the meaning of unknown and multiple-meaning words or phrases based on *grade 8 reading and content*, choosing flexibly from a range of strategies.

- Use context (e.g., the overall meaning of a sentence or paragraph; a word's position or function in a sentence) as a clue to the meaning of a word or phrase.
- Use common, grade-appropriate Greek or Latin affixes and roots as clues to the meaning of a word (e.g., *precede*, *recede*, *secede*).
- Consult general and specialized reference materials (e.g., dictionaries, glossaries, thesauruses), both print and digital, to find the pronunciation of a word or determine or clarify its precise meaning or its part of speech.
- Verify the preliminary determination of the meaning of a word or phrase (e.g., by checking the inferred meaning in context or in a dictionary).

5. Demonstrate understanding of figurative language, word relationships, and nuances in word meanings.

- Interpret figures of speech (e.g. verbal irony, puns) in context.
- Use the relationship between particular words to better understand each of the words.
- Distinguish among the connotations (associations) of words with similar denotations (definitions) (e.g., *bullheaded*, *willful*, *firm*, *persistent*, *resolute*).

6. Acquire and use accurately grade-appropriate general academic and domain-specific words and phrases; gather vocabulary knowledge when considering a word or phrase important to comprehension or expression.

# Six Traits of Writing and the Common Core Connection

Ideas Organization Voice Word Choice Sentence Fluency Conventions

## Ninth and Tenth Grade

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The CCR anchor standards and high school grade-specific standards work in tandem to define college and career readiness expectations—the former providing broad standards, the latter providing additional specificity.

### Text Types and Purposes

1. Write arguments to support claims in an analysis of substantive topics or texts, using valid reasoning and relevant and sufficient evidence.

- Introduce precise claim(s), distinguish the claim(s) from alternate or opposing claims, and create an organization that establishes clear relationships among claim(s), counterclaims, reasons, and evidence.
- Develop claim(s) and counterclaims fairly, supplying evidence for each while pointing out the strengths and limitations of both in a manner that anticipates the audience's knowledge level and concerns.
- Use words, phrases, and clauses to link the major sections of the text, create cohesion, and clarify the relationships between claim(s) and reasons, between reasons and evidence, and between claim(s) and counterclaims.
- Establish and maintain a formal style and objective tone while attending to the norms and conventions of the discipline in which they are writing.
- Provide a concluding statement or section that follows from and supports the argument presented.

2. Write informative/explanatory texts to examine and convey complex ideas, concepts, and information clearly and accurately through the effective selection, organization, and analysis of content.

- Introduce a topic; organize complex ideas, concepts, and information to make important connections and distinctions; include formatting (e.g., headings), graphics (e.g., figures, tables), and multimedia when useful to aiding comprehension.
- Develop the topic with well-chosen, relevant, and sufficient facts, extended definitions, concrete details, quotations, or other information and examples appropriate to the audience's knowledge of the topic.
- Use appropriate and varied transitions to link the major sections of the text, create cohesion, and clarify the relationships among complex ideas and concepts.
- Use precise language and domain-specific vocabulary to manage the complexity of the topic.
- Establish and maintain a formal style and objective tone while attending to the norms and conventions of the discipline in which they are writing.
- Provide a concluding statement or section that follows from and supports the information or explanation presented (e.g., articulating implications or the significance of the topic).

Adapted from the Common Core State Standards [www.corestandards.org](http://www.corestandards.org)

# Six Traits of Writing and the Common Core Connection

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

(Ninth and Tenth Grade Cont.)

3. Write narratives to develop real or imagined experiences or events using effective technique, well-chosen details, and well-structured event sequences.
- Engage and orient the reader by setting out a problem, situation, or observation, establishing one or multiple point(s) of view, and introducing a narrator and/or characters; create a smooth progression of experiences or events.
  - Use narrative techniques, such as dialogue, pacing, description, reflection, and multiple plot lines, to develop experiences, events, and/or characters.
  - Use a variety of techniques to sequence events so that they build on one another to create a coherent whole.
  - Use precise words and phrases, telling details, and sensory language to convey a vivid picture of the experiences, events, setting, and/or characters.
  - Provide a conclusion that follows from and reflects on what is experienced, observed, or resolved over the course of the narrative.

## Production and Distribution of Writing

---

4. Produce clear and coherent writing in which the development, organization, and style are appropriate to task, purpose, and audience. (Grade-specific expectations for writing types are defined in standards 1–3 above.)
5. Develop and strengthen writing as needed by planning, revising, editing, rewriting, or trying a new approach, focusing on addressing what is most significant for a specific purpose and audience.
6. Use technology, including the Internet, to produce, publish, and update individual or shared writing products, taking advantage of technology's capacity to link to other information and to display information flexibly and dynamically.

## Research to Build and Present Knowledge

---

7. Conduct short as well as more sustained research projects to answer a question (including a self-generated question) or solve a problem; narrow or broaden the inquiry when appropriate; synthesize multiple sources on the subject, demonstrating understanding of the subject under investigation.

# Six Traits of Writing and the Common Core Connection

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

(Ninth and Tenth Grade Cont.)

8. Gather relevant information from multiple authoritative print and digital sources, using advanced searches effectively; assess the usefulness of each source in answering the research question; integrate information into the text selectively to maintain the flow of ideas, avoiding plagiarism and following a standard format for citation.
9. Draw evidence from literary or informational texts to support analysis, reflection, and research.
  - Apply *grades 9–10 Reading standards* to literature (e.g., “Analyze how an author draws on and transforms source material in a specific work [e.g., how Shakespeare treats a theme or topic from Ovid or the Bible or how a later author draws on a play by Shakespeare]”).
  - Apply *grades 9–10 Reading standards* to literary nonfiction (e.g., “Delineate and evaluate the argument and specific claims in a text, assessing whether the reasoning is valid and the evidence is relevant and sufficient; identify false statements and fallacious reasoning”).

## Range of Writing

---

10. Write routinely over extended time frames (time for research, reflection, and revision) and shorter time frames (a single sitting or a day or two) for a range of tasks, purposes, and audiences.

## Conventions of Standard English

---

1. Demonstrate command of the conventions of standard English grammar and usage when writing or speaking.
  - Use parallel structure.
  - Use various types of phrases (noun, verb, adjectival, adverbial, participial, prepositional, absolute) and clauses (independent, dependent; noun, relative, adverbial) to convey specific meanings and add variety and interest to writing or presentations.
2. Demonstrate command of the conventions of standard English capitalization, punctuation, and spelling when writing.
  - Use a semicolon (and perhaps a conjunctive adverb) to link two or more closely related independent clauses.

Adapted from the Common Core State Standards [www.corestandards.org](http://www.corestandards.org)

# Six Traits of Writing and the Common Core Connection

Ideas Organization Voice Word Choice Sentence Fluency Conventions

(Ninth and Tenth Grade Cont.)

- Use a colon to introduce a list or quotation.
- Spell correctly.

## Knowledge of Language

---

3. Apply knowledge of language to understand how language functions in different contexts, to make effective choices for meaning or style, and to comprehend more fully when reading or listening.

- Write and edit work so that it conforms to the guidelines in a style manual (e.g., *MLA Handbook*, *Turabian's Manual for Writers*) appropriate for the discipline and writing type.

## Vocabulary Acquisition and Use

---

4. Determine or clarify the meaning of unknown and multiple-meaning words and phrases based on *grades 9–10 reading and content*, choosing flexibly from a range of strategies.

- Use context (e.g., the overall meaning of a sentence, paragraph, or text; a word's position or function in a sentence) as a clue to the meaning of a word or phrase.
- Identify and correctly use patterns of word changes that indicate different meanings or parts of speech (e.g., *analyze, analysis, analytical; advocate, advocacy*).
- Consult general and specialized reference materials (e.g., dictionaries, glossaries, thesauruses), both print and digital, to find the pronunciation of a word or determine or clarify its precise meaning, its part of speech, or its etymology.
- Verify the preliminary determination of the meaning of a word or phrase (e.g., by checking the inferred meaning in context or in a dictionary).

5. Demonstrate understanding of figurative language, word relationships, and nuances in word meanings.

- Interpret figures of speech (e.g., euphemism, oxymoron) in context and analyze their role in the text.

Adapted from the Common Core State Standards [www.corestandards.org](http://www.corestandards.org)

# Six Traits of Writing and the Common Core Connection

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

(Ninth and Tenth Grade Cont.)

- Analyze nuances in the meaning of words with similar denotations.

6. Acquire and use accurately general academic and domain-specific words and phrases, sufficient for reading, writing, speaking, and listening at the college and career readiness level; demonstrate independence in gathering vocabulary knowledge when considering a word or phrase important to comprehension or expression.

## Eleventh and Twelfth Grade

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The CCR anchor standards and high school grade-specific standards work in tandem to define college and career readiness expectations—the former providing broad standards, the latter providing additional specificity.

### Text Types and Purposes

1. Write arguments to support claims in an analysis of substantive topics or texts, using valid reasoning and relevant and sufficient evidence.
  - Introduce precise, knowledgeable claim(s), establish the significance of the claim(s), distinguish the claim(s) from alternate or opposing claims, and create an organization that logically sequences claim(s), counterclaims, reasons, and evidence.
  - Develop claim(s) and counterclaims fairly and thoroughly, supplying the most relevant evidence for each while pointing out the strengths and limitations of both in a manner that anticipates the audience's knowledge level, concerns, values, and possible biases.
  - Use words, phrases, and clauses as well as varied syntax to link the major sections of the text, create cohesion, and clarify the relationships between claim(s) and reasons, between reasons and evidence, and between claim(s) and counterclaims.
  - Establish and maintain a formal style and objective tone while attending to the norms and conventions of the discipline in which they are writing.
  - Provide a concluding statement or section that follows from and supports the argument presented.
2. Write informative/explanatory texts to examine and convey complex ideas, concepts, and information clearly and accurately through the effective selection, organization, and analysis of content.

# Six Traits of Writing and the Common Core Connection

## Ideas Organization Voice Word Choice Sentence Fluency Conventions

(Eleventh and Twelfth Grade Cont.)

- **Introduce a topic**; organize complex ideas, concepts, and information so that each new element builds on that which precedes it to create a unified whole; include formatting (e.g., headings), graphics (e.g., figures, tables), and multimedia when useful to aiding comprehension.
- **Develop the topic thoroughly** by selecting the most significant and relevant facts, extended definitions, concrete details, quotations, or other information and examples appropriate to the audience's knowledge of the topic.
- Use appropriate and varied transitions and **syntax** to link the major sections of the text, create cohesion, and clarify the relationships among complex ideas and concepts.
- Use **precise language, domain-specific vocabulary**, and techniques such as metaphor, simile, and analogy to manage the complexity of the topic.
- **Establish and maintain a formal style and objective tone** while attending to the norms and conventions of the discipline in which they are writing.
- Provide a concluding statement or section that follows from and supports the information or explanation presented (e.g., articulating implications or the significance of the topic).

3. **Write narratives to develop real or imagined experiences or events using effective technique, well-chosen details, and well-structured event sequences.**

- **Engage and orient the reader** by setting out a problem, situation, or observation and its significance, **establishing one or multiple point(s) of view**, and introducing a narrator and/or characters; create a smooth progression of experiences or events.
- Use narrative techniques, such as dialogue, pacing, description, reflection, and multiple plot lines, to develop experiences, events, and/or characters.
- Use a variety of techniques to sequence events so that they build on one another to create a coherent whole and build toward a **particular tone and outcome** (e.g., a sense of mystery, suspense, growth, or resolution).
- Use **precise words and phrases, telling details, and sensory language** to convey a vivid picture of the experiences, events, setting, and/or characters.
- Provide a conclusion that follows from and reflects on what is experienced, observed, or resolved over the course of the narrative.

### Production and Distribution of Writing

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4. **Produce clear and coherent writing** in which the development, organization, and **style** are appropriate to task, purpose, and **audience**. (Grade-specific expectations for writing types are defined in standards 1–3 above.)

5. **Develop and strengthen writing as needed** by planning, revising, editing, rewriting, or trying a new approach, focusing on addressing what is most significant for a specific purpose and **audience**.

Adapted from the Common Core State Standards [www.corestandards.org](http://www.corestandards.org)

# Six Traits of Writing and the Common Core Connection

Ideas Organization Voice Word Choice Sentence Fluency Conventions

(Eleventh and Twelfth Grade Cont.)

6. Use technology, including the Internet, to produce, publish, and update individual or shared writing products in response to ongoing feedback, including new arguments or information.

## Research to Build and Present Knowledge

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7. Conduct short as well as more sustained research projects to answer a question (including a self-generated question) or solve a problem; narrow or broaden the inquiry when appropriate; synthesize multiple sources on the subject, demonstrating understanding of the subject under investigation.

8. Gather relevant information from multiple authoritative print and digital sources, using advanced searches effectively; assess the strengths and limitations of each source in terms of the task, purpose, and audience; integrate information into the text selectively to maintain the flow of ideas, avoiding plagiarism and overreliance on any one source and following a standard format for citation.

9. Draw evidence from literary or informational texts to support analysis, reflection, and research.

- Apply *grades 11–12 Reading standards* to literature (e.g., “Demonstrate knowledge of eighteenth-, nineteenth- and early-twentieth-century foundational works of American literature, including how two or more texts from the same period treat similar themes or topics”).
- Apply *grades 11–12 Reading standards* to literary nonfiction (e.g., “Delineate and evaluate the reasoning in seminal U.S. texts, including the application of constitutional principles and use of legal reasoning [e.g., in U.S. Supreme Court Case majority opinions and dissents] and the premises, purposes, and arguments in works of public advocacy [e.g., *The Federalist*, presidential addresses]”).

## Range of Writing

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10. Write routinely over extended time frames (time for research, reflection, and revision) and shorter time frames (a single sitting or a day or two) for a range of tasks, purposes, and audiences.



# Six Traits of Writing and the Common Core Connection

Ideas Organization Voice Word Choice Sentence Fluency Conventions

(Eleventh and Twelfth Grade Cont.)

## Conventions of Standard English

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1. Demonstrate command of the conventions of standard English grammar and usage when writing or speaking.

- Apply the understanding that usage is a matter of convention, can change over time, and is sometimes contested.
- Resolve issues of complex or contested usage, consulting references (e.g., *Merriam-Webster's Dictionary of English Usage*, *Garner's Modern American Usage*) as needed.

2. Demonstrate command of the conventions of standard English capitalization, punctuation, and spelling when writing.

- Observe hyphenation conventions.
- Spell correctly.

## Knowledge of Language

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3. Apply knowledge of language to understand how language functions in different contexts, to make effective choices for meaning or style, and to comprehend more fully when reading or listening.

- Vary syntax for effect, consulting references (e.g., Tufte's *Artful Sentences*) for guidance as needed; apply an understanding of syntax to the study of complex texts when reading.

4. Determine or clarify the meaning of unknown and multiple-meaning words and phrases based on *grades 11–12 reading and content*, choosing flexibly from a range of strategies.

- Use context (e.g., the overall meaning of a sentence, paragraph, or text; a word's position or function in a sentence) as a clue to the meaning of a word or phrase.
- Identify and correctly use patterns of word changes that indicate different meanings or parts of speech (e.g., *conceive*, *conception*, *conceivable*).

Adapted from the Common Core State Standards [www.corestandards.org](http://www.corestandards.org)

[www.helpkidswrite.com](http://www.helpkidswrite.com)

# Six Traits of Writing and the Common Core Connection

Ideas   Organization   Voice   Word Choice   Sentence Fluency   Conventions

(Eleventh and Twelfth Grade Cont.)

- Consult general and specialized reference materials (e.g., dictionaries, glossaries, thesauruses), both print and digital, to find the pronunciation of a word or determine or clarify its precise meaning, its part of speech, its etymology, or its standard usage.
- Verify the preliminary determination of the meaning of a word or phrase (e.g., by checking the inferred meaning in context or in a dictionary).

5. Demonstrate understanding of figurative language, word relationships, and nuances in word meanings.

- Interpret figures of speech (e.g., hyperbole, paradox) in context and analyze their role in the text.
- Analyze nuances in the meaning of words with similar denotations.

6. Acquire and use accurately general academic and domain-specific words and phrases, sufficient for reading, writing, speaking, and listening at the college and career readiness level; demonstrate independence in gathering vocabulary knowledge when considering a word or phrase important to comprehension or expression.