



## Six Traits of Writing

Dear Parents,

I am thrilled to have the opportunity to explore the joy of writing with your child. During this year's writing instruction, students will have many opportunities to share stories and ideas. As a class, we will spend thirty to forty minutes each day in a variety of writing activities.

During our first writing unit, the class will be introduced to the Six Traits of Writing. The traits are the qualities that are present in good writing. They consist of **Idea**, **Organization**, **Voice**, **Word Choice**, **Sentence Fluency**, **Conventions**, and the element of **Presentation**, where the students learn that writing neatly leaves an impression on the reader. In this unit, your child will participate in activities associated with each trait, preparing them to apply these traits in their writing throughout the school year.

### Ideas for Home Support

As your child practices writing these narratives at school you might consider practicing at home with the following ideas:

- While in the car, encourage your child to use vivid verbs and precise language to describe what they see.
- Challenge your child to explore different character voices through role-play. Select a character from a book and encourage your child to act out that character.
- Study a series of books with your child. Discuss the author's writing strategies and overall word choices.
- Create a sentence game where you and your child take turns building sentences with different structures and lengths.

Thank you for all your support!

Sincerely,

# Idea Practice

Circle the topic of each paragraph. Underline sentences that are off-topic from the **idea** of this writing.

1.

George Washington was the first president of the United States and played a crucial role in shaping the country's early history. Born in Virginia in 1732, he grew up to become a respected military leader during the American Revolutionary War, leading the Continental Army to victory against the British. His leadership skills and determination were key in securing independence for the nation. In his spare time, Washington enjoyed farming and horseback riding, and he was known for his love of dogs. After the war, Washington became president and helped establish many of the traditions and systems still in place today. Despite facing challenges, such as managing political differences and establishing a stable economy, Washington's integrity and vision guided the young nation forward. He also had a fondness for collecting rare books and fine wine. He served two terms as president before retiring to his estate at Mount Vernon.

2.

It is fascinating to learn about the different colors and textures of rocks and how they form unique landscapes, but always make sure to clean up any trash you find to help protect our environment! Sedimentary rocks are amazing formations that tell us stories about Earth's history. These rocks are made up of layers of sediment, like sand, mud, and even tiny pieces of plants and animals that settled at the bottom of oceans, rivers, or lakes over millions of years. As more layers build up, the weight of the top layers presses down on the bottom ones, squeezing them together and turning them into solid rock. Sedimentary rocks can be found all over the world and come in different types, like sandstone, limestone, and shale. They often contain fossils, which are the preserved remains of ancient plants and animals.

3.

The Boston Tea Party was a famous event that happened in 1773 during the American Revolutionary War. It all started when American colonists were upset about high taxes imposed by the British government on tea. Besides the Boston Tea Party, Boston is also known for its rich history in the American Revolution, with sites like the Paul Revere House and the Old North Church attracting visitors from all over the world. Additionally, Boston is famous for its delicious clam chowder and fresh seafood, which you can enjoy while exploring the city's historic neighborhoods. On the night of December 16, disguised as Native Americans, a group of colonists boarded British ships and dumped chests of tea into the Boston Harbor as a protest. This act showed their frustration with British rule and became a symbol of resistance against unfair taxation.

# Idea Practice

## Answer Key

Circle the topic of each paragraph. Underline sentences that are off-topic from the **idea** of this writing.

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It is fascinating to learn about the different colors and textures of rocks and how they form unique landscapes, but always make sure to clean up any trash you find to help protect our environment! ~~Sedimentary rocks are amazing formations that tell us stories about Earth's history.~~ These rocks are made up of layers of sediment, like sand, mud, and even tiny pieces of plants and animals that settled at the bottom of oceans, rivers, or lakes over millions of years. As more layers build up, the weight of the top layers presses down on the bottom ones, squeezing them together and turning them into solid rock. Sedimentary rocks can be found all over the world and come in different types, like sandstone, limestone, and shale. They often contain fossils, which are the preserved remains of ancient plants and animals.

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Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

## Outlining Details Practice

Topic: How to ride a bike \_\_\_\_\_

Steps

1. Practice stopping \_\_\_\_\_
2. Practice turning \_\_\_\_\_
3. Get the right size bike \_\_\_\_\_
4. Push off to start \_\_\_\_\_
5. Find a safe spot \_\_\_\_\_
6. Wear a helmet \_\_\_\_\_
7. Keep trying \_\_\_\_\_
8. Pedal \_\_\_\_\_

Conclusion: Learning to ride a bike takes practice. \_\_\_\_\_

**Rewrite the details and put them in a logical order.**

Topic: How to ride a bike \_\_\_\_\_

Steps

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_
4. \_\_\_\_\_
5. \_\_\_\_\_
6. \_\_\_\_\_
7. \_\_\_\_\_
8. \_\_\_\_\_

Conclusion: Learning to ride a bike takes practice. \_\_\_\_\_

# Organization Practice

## Teacher Practice

### The Statue of Liberty

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The statue holds a torch high in her right hand which symbolizes liberty and enlightenment. France gave the statue to celebrate America's 100th birthday and to show friendship between the two countries. It was a gift from France to America in 1886. The statue represents freedom and democracy. The crown on her head has seven spikes which represent the seven continents and seven seas. In her left hand, she carries a tablet inscribed with the date of America's independence, July 4, 1776. The statue is made of copper and stands on a pedestal on Liberty Island in New York Harbor.

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# Organization Practice

## Teacher Answer Key

### The Statue of Liberty

**Note:** The example below is flexible as the topic sentence and conclusion can be written many different ways and details can be rearranged in a different order.

The Statue of Liberty is a very famous statue in the United States that stands tall in New York City. It was a gift from France to America in 1886. France gave the statue to celebrate America's 100th birthday and to show friendship between the two countries. It is made of copper and stands on a pedestal on Liberty Island in the New York Harbor. The statue represents freedom and democracy. The crown on her head has seven spikes which represent the seven continents and seven seas. The statue holds a torch high in her right hand which symbolizes liberty and enlightenment. In her left hand, she carries a tablet inscribed with the date of America's independence, July 4, 1776. Over the years, the Statue of Liberty has become a symbol of hope and freedom for people all around the world.



# Organization Practice Example

**Rewrite the paragraph.**

**Put the details of the paragraph into a logical order. Add a topic sentence and conclusion.**

## **How to Make a Piñata**

Making a piñata can be a super fun craft project! First, you need to gather your materials, including a balloon, newspaper strips, glue, and colorful tissue paper. Blow up the balloon and then cover it with layers of glue-soaked newspaper strips. Let it dry completely, then pop the balloon and remove it. Next, cut colorful tissue paper into strips and make little cuts along one edge to create a fun, fringed look to decorate your piñata. Finally, fill it with treats, like candies or small toys. Be sure to add a string to hang it up. Now you're ready to party and break the piñata to enjoy the surprises inside!



Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

### Practice for Tone and Mood

Write a sentence that uses voice for the described character.

1. A person who has had no sleep for two nights	
2. A grandma trying to take her crazy dog for a walk	
3. A person who just won a gold medal at the Olympics	
4. A man talking to a boy who lost his dog	
5. A cheerleader after her team lost the championship game	

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

## Practice for Tone and Mood

### Answer Ideas

Write a sentence that uses voice for the described character.

1. A person who has had no sleep for two nights	She stumbled in the door and said, "I'm so exhausted, I can barely keep my eyes open."  He stumbled in the door and flopped on the bed thinking, "I'm so tired that I am starting to see things that aren't there."
2. A grandma trying to take her crazy dog for a walk	"Come on, Fido, slow down a bit, Grandma can't keep up with your energy!"  Her bones were creaking, but her dog hopped around like a grasshopper.
3. A person who just won a gold medal at the Olympics	Tears were rolling down her face. She could not find the words for the pure joy she felt.  He puffed out his chest as he stood at the top of the podium.
4. A man helping a boy who lost his dog	He slowly approached the tearful boy and put a hand on his shoulder realizing there were no words to console a boy who lost his dog.
5. A cheerleader after her team lost the championship game	She was so mad that she set down her pom-poms and quietly walked out of the stadium.  Her throat was hoarse from all the cheering, but it was not enough.

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

## Sentence Fluency Practice

Sammy stretched his arms and yawned. Sammy got out of bed and hurried downstairs to the kitchen. Sammy poured himself a bowl of cereal and sat at the table. Sammy remembered it was his best friend's birthday. Sammy quickly finished his breakfast and dashed back upstairs to get ready. Sammy grabbed his backpack and headed out the door, eager to celebrate with his friend.

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