# SIX TRAITS HANDOUT

# IDEAS & CONTENT

Pick an interesting topic.

Brainstorm subtopics and details.

Use a TOWER Diagram to organize your ideas.

Include information that is important to you.

Include information that shows what you know about the topic.

Include specific information.

Include new or little-known information.

Decide your purpose for writing the paper.

Include that purpose when planning the Thesis Statement.

Plan interesting Introductory and Concluding Options.

**VOICE**

Make your writing different from other people’s writing.

Allow the reader to hear the your voice speaking in the writing.

Express a mood.

Express emotions or passion about a topic.

Express a unique or different perspective.

Express your personal treatment of a standard topic.

Express your unique feelings and thoughts.

Decide whether to use formal or informal speech or a combination.

# WORD CHOICE

Use words that are specific and precise. Make sure they fit the context.

Use colorful or expressive words.

Avoid overused words.

Change simple, boring words into words that are more descriptive or more interesting.

Use similes and metaphors.

Use a variety of transition words to link ideas.

Paint a mental picture with your words.

Use the thesaurus and dictionary carefully.

# SENTENCE FLUENCY

Use PENS and MARK.

Use a variety of sentence formulas.

Combine sentences when you have too many Simple Sentences.

Use a variety of Topic Sentences.

# CONVENTIONS

Use WRITER and COPS.

Use InSPECT to ensure correct spelling, even on easy words.

Make sentences easy to read.

Paragraphs are indented.

Polish your paper so it looks GREAT!

# ORGANIZATION

Follow your TOWER Diagram when you write.

Start the paper in a way that grabs the reader’s attention.

Provide some clues in the Introductory Paragraph about the main thesis of the paper and the content of the rest of the paper.

Use a strong Thesis Statement.

Make sure that each Detail Paragraph adds to the main idea of the paper.

Make sure that each paragraph is connected to the other paragraphs in a meaningful way.

Make sure the whole paper *flows* from start to finish using appropriate transitions between paragraphs.

Use the Concluding Paragraph to wrap up the thesis of the paper and leave the reader with something to think about.