

# 6 + 1 Traits of Writing

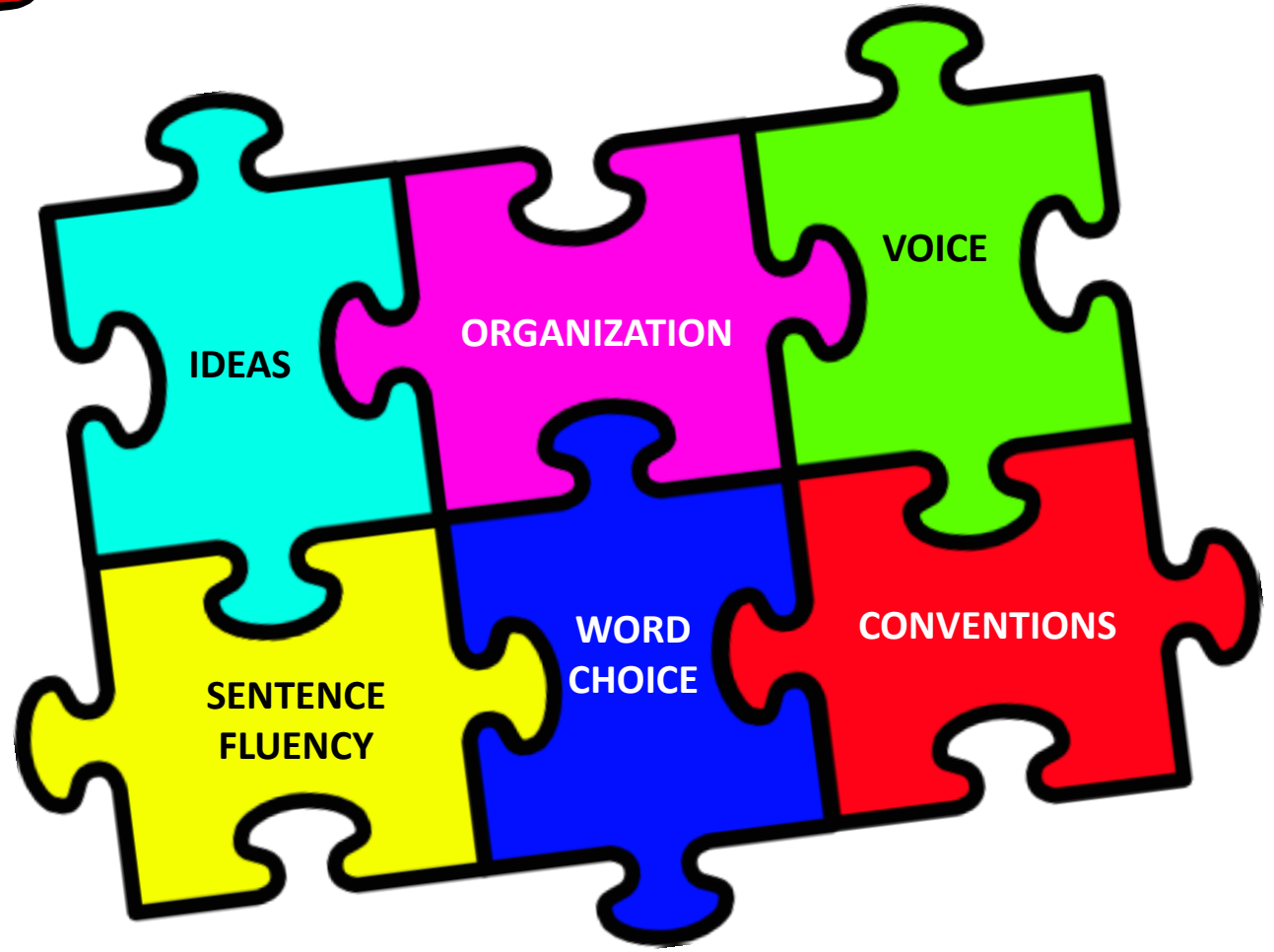
8<sup>th</sup> Grade Writing

What is it anyway?

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- ▶ **Common vocabulary to describe our vision of what good writing looks like**







# Trait 1: Ideas

## Trait #1: IDEAS

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- ▶ Ideas make up the *content* of the piece of writing – the heart of the message
- ▶ ***In other words***, it is the topic and details



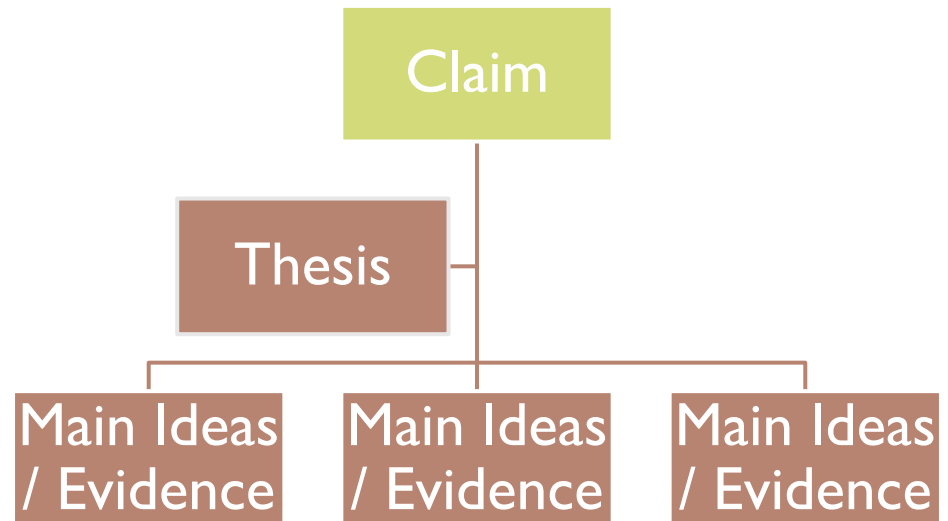


## Trait 2: Organization

## Trait #2: Organization

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- ▶ The way you structure your essay
- ▶ The pattern of logic you use to organize your thoughts





## Trait 3: Voice



## Trait #3: Voice

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- ▶ Voice is the personal stamp of the writer (achieved through understanding of purpose and audience)
- ▶ The force behind the words that proves a real person is speaking and cares about what is being said.
- ▶ It is that individual **something** -- different from the mark of all other writers—that we call **VOICE**.



## Trait 4: Word Choice

## Trait #4: Word Choice

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- ▶ Using PRECISE language to communicate your ideas in a functional way, but also in a way that moves or enlightens the reader



## Trait 5: Sentence Fluency

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- ▶ How words and phrases flow together to create a piece of writing.
- ▶ Skillful writers use sentence fluency to move the reader where they want them.



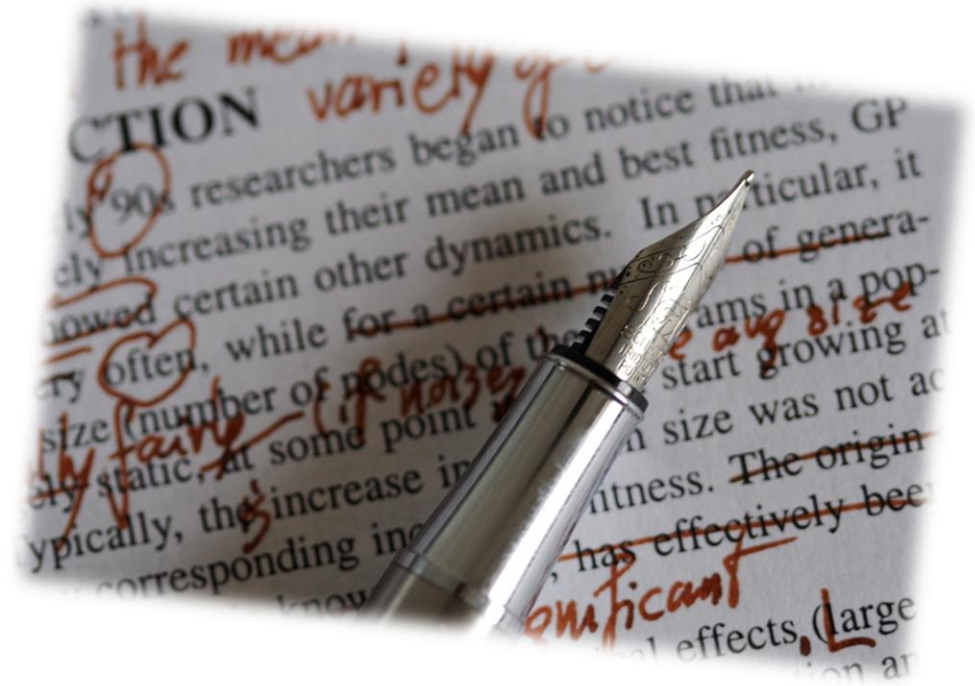


## Trait 6: Conventions

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- ▶ The editing standards we apply to a piece of writing to make it mechanically correct and, therefore, easy to read.
  - ▶ Spelling
  - ▶ Capitalization
  - ▶ Punctuation
  - ▶ Paragraphing
  - ▶ Grammar
  - ▶ Usage





Trait +1: Presentation



# Trait+ 1: Presentation

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- ▶ The physical appearance of the piece – how it LOOKS!
  - ▶ Neat and clean
  - ▶ MLA Format
  - ▶ Professional

