

**FOCUS SKILLS: Teaching the Six Traits of Quality Writing**

Teaching Ideas	Discovering a personally important topic
	Making the message clear + interesting to the reader
	Expanding + clarifying the idea with significant details
Teaching Organization	Writing a crackerjack lead
	Using transitions to link ideas
	Wrapping it up with a thoughtful conclusion
Teaching Voice	Writing with honesty and passion
	Knowing the topic so that confidence is evident
	Thinking about what the audience will find interesting
Teaching Word Choice	Selecting words for precision
	Finding a fresh, original way to say something
	Energizing writing with strong verbs
Teaching Sentence Fluency	Varying Sentence Beginnings
	Combining short, choppy sentences to smooth the flow
	Reading aloud to see how it plays to the ear
Teaching Conventions	Reading with an editor's eye
	Reading aloud to ensure readability
	Understanding and applying current rules governing spelling, punctuation, usage, grammar, capitalization, and paragraphing