



Writing by Design[®]

Unit Five

Dear Parents,

In the last two weeks, your child was introduced to the Six Traits of Writing +1. The traits are the qualities that are present in good writing. They consist of **Idea**, **Organization**, **Voice**, **Word Choice**, **Sentence Fluency**, and Conventions. The additional element is **Presentation** where the students learned that writing neatly leaves an impression on the reader. Your child did activities associated with each trait in preparation for applying them in the last eight weeks of school.

In the next eight weeks, your child will use the Six Traits of Writing +1 while they write narratives, summaries, informative papers, and opinions. The students will understand that writing has to have one clear topic and pictures have to match the topic. They will add details and describe characters and settings by using adjectives. As they write opinions of books and topics they will support their opinions with reasons.

Ideas for Home Support

- While in the car, tell stories. They could be make-believe or retelling of days and events.
- When there are special events in the family or fun trips, always ask, “What was your favorite part and why? Encourage them to describe their feelings and observations.
- Read a book with your child and ask them to give you an opinion of the book. It could be about characters or events. Your child should be able to support their opinion with reasons.
- At local or school libraries, there are many wordless books for your child to look at pictures and tell you a story from the pictures. Encourage them to include a beginning, middle, and end.
- Use stuffed animals to create a puppet show. Allow the characters to have personalities and create a story with a beginning, middle, and end. The setting could be anywhere in the house or a make-believe place.

Thank you for your support!