



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 approximately thirty 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:

- Provide your child with a variety of story starters to spark their imagination. Encourage them to tell you the story orally, helping them to add details along the way.
- Engage your child in sequencing activities. Have them arrange events or steps in a logical order.
- Ask your child to pretend they are a certain character in a movie or book. Have them experiment with different voices for the character.
- Read books and stories with your child, paying attention to the rhythm and flow of sentences.

Thank you for all your support!

Sincerely,

Idea Practice Paragraphs

Alligators are big reptiles that live and eat in the water. They like to eat different things like fish, turtles, birds, and sometimes even small mammals. Some people make boots from alligator skins. They use their strong jaws to catch their food and then they chomp it up with their sharp teeth. Alligators are good hunters and they eat a lot to stay healthy and strong.

The Hershey Chocolate Company is super famous for making delicious chocolates that people all over the world love! It was started a long time ago by a man named Milton Hershey. He made his chocolates in a town called Hershey, which is why it's called that! They make all kinds of yummy treats like chocolate bars, kisses, and even syrup for making chocolate milk! My favorite chocolate bar is Snickers. The company has a big factory where they mix cocoa beans with milk and sugar to make their special recipes. Then, they wrap up the chocolates in shiny wrappers and send them to stores for us to enjoy! Isn't that awesome?

Panthers are amazing animals that belong to the big cat family, just like lions and tigers. They have beautiful spotted fur that helps them hide in the forest and grasslands where they live. Leopards are great hunters and they can run very fast to catch their food, like antelopes and monkeys. They're also good climbers and they sometimes carry their meals up into trees so other animals can't steal them. Leopards are mostly solitary, which means they like to be alone, except when they're raising their babies, called cubs. They're super strong and stealthy, making them one of the coolest animals in the wild!

Idea Practice Paragraphs Answer Key

Alligators are big reptiles that eat and live in the water. They like to eat different things like fish, turtles, birds, and sometimes even small mammals. Some people make boots from alligator skins. They use their strong jaws to catch their food and then they chomp it up with their sharp teeth. Alligators are good hunters and they eat a lot to stay healthy and strong.

Topic = Eating habits of alligators

Off-topic sentence = Some people make boots from alligator skins.

The Hershey Chocolate Company is super famous for making delicious chocolates that people all over the world love! It was started a long time ago by a man named Milton Hershey. He made his chocolates in a town called Hershey, which is why it's called that! They make all kinds of yummy treats like chocolate bars, kisses, and even syrup for making chocolate milk! My favorite chocolate bar is Snickers. The company has a big factory where they mix cocoa beans with milk and sugar to make their special recipes. Then, they wrap up the chocolates in shiny wrappers and send them to stores for us to enjoy! Isn't that awesome?

Topic = The Hershey Chocolate Company

Off-topic sentence = My favorite chocolate bar is Snickers.

Panthers are amazing animals that belong to the big cat family, just like lions and tigers. They have beautiful spotted fur that helps them hide in the forest and grasslands where they live. Leopards are great hunters and they can run very fast to catch their food, like antelopes and monkeys. They're also good climbers and they sometimes carry their meals up into trees so other animals can't steal them. Leopards are mostly solitary, which means they like to be alone, except when they're raising their babies, called cubs. They're super strong and stealthy, making them one of the coolest animals in the wild!

Topic = Leopards

Off-Topic = Panthers are amazing animals that belong to the big cat family, just like lions and tigers.

Possible Topic Sentences:

Leopards are amazing big cats that live in places like Africa and Asia.

In Africa and Asia, there are leopards that are part of the big cat family.

The coolest animal in the big cat family is the leopard.

Unorganized Sentences

1. Sleeping in a sleeping bag was super cozy, like a big warm hug.
2. I can't wait to go camping again and have more adventures in the great outdoors!
3. Once upon a time, my family and I went camping in the woods.
4. At night, we listened to the sounds of crickets and owls while we told funny stories.
5. I saw lots of cool bugs and birds while we went hiking in the forest.
6. We set up our tent near a big, sparkly lake.
7. We made a campfire and roasted marshmallows until they were gooey and yummy.

Once upon a time, my family and I went camping in the woods. We set up our tent near a big, sparkly lake. We made a campfire and roasted marshmallows until they were gooey and yummy. I saw lots of cool bugs and birds while we went hiking in the forest. At night, we listened to the sounds of crickets and owls while we told funny stories. Sleeping in a sleeping bag was super cozy, like a big warm hug. I can't wait to go camping again and have more adventures in the great outdoors!

Organized Paragraphs Practice

Underline the topic sentence and concluding sentence in **red**
and the details of the paragraph in **green**.

1.

Yesterday, I went to visit my cousins and it was super fun! We played games like hide and seek and tag in the backyard. My cousin Joey showed me his cool collection of dinosaur toys and we pretended to be explorers in a jungle! Then, we all sat down for lunch and ate sandwiches and chips. After lunch, we went to the park and swung on the swings really high. I can't wait to see my cousins again because we always have the best time together!

2.

Today was not a good day at school. First, I forgot to bring my homework and my teacher wasn't happy about it. Then, I accidentally spilled my juice during lunchtime and it made a big mess. Some kids laughed at me and I felt embarrassed. In class, I got a math problem wrong in front of everyone and I felt really frustrated. At recess, it started raining, so we had to stay inside. I was looking forward to playing with my friends, but we had to stay indoors with quiet games. It felt like everything went wrong today, but I think tomorrow will be better.

3.

First, you need to find a good spot in your living room or backyard. Then, gather all the blankets and pillows you can find. Now you're ready to have a blast in your awesome fort! Next, use chairs, tables, and cushions to make the frame of your fort. Drape the blankets over the top to make the roof and walls. You can use clothespins or heavy books to hold the blankets in place. Making a fort is super fun! Make sure to leave a doorway so you can crawl inside. Once your fort is built, add some cozy blankets and pillows inside. You can bring in snacks, books, or toys to play with.

Paragraphs Practice Answer Key

Underline the topic sentence and concluding sentence in **red**
and the details of the paragraph in **green**.

1.

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Name _____ Date _____

Sentence Fluency Practice

Plants have a way of sharing their needs. Sometimes their leaves are yellow. Sometimes they are droopy or have spots. They need water. They need sunlight. They need fertilizer.
