

Six Traits Writing Workshop

WNY School Support Center UB Buffalo Public Schools

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Ideas

Ideas

Ideas are the heart of the message. They reflect the purpose, the theme, the primary content, the main point, or the main story line of the piece, together with the documented support, elaboration, anecdotes, images, or carefully selected details that build understanding or hold a reader's attention.

Ideas Student Rubric



- 4 That's it! Focused, clear, specific, concise
 - a. My writing brims with details that hold a reader's attention. The main point is very focused and easy to understand.
 - b. I showed what was happening ("The wildly spiraling tornado aimed straight for our barn.") rather than just telling ("It was scary").
 - c. My topic is small and focused: "What to do when a tornado hits."
 - d. Interesting tidbits ("You hear a tornado before you see it") keep my readers reading; no one will get bored and doze off reading this.
 - e. I could easily answer the question: What is the point of this paper or story?

Ideas Student Rubric



3 Almost there

- a. A reader would understand my MAIN idea. I could use more information, though.
- b. Some details are important and interesting: “She always wore non-matching socks.” “The clouds were the color of tarnished pewter.” Other details are too general or are things everyone already knows: “She was nice.” “It was a July day in Arizona. The weather was warm.”
- c. I think a reader would learn something reading this.
- d. I included what was important (whether a tornado can really pick up a house) and left out trivia and details not related to my topic (names of hurricanes since 1900)

Ideas Student Rubric



- 2 On my way—Ready for serious revision**
 - a. My details are vague: “It was fun and stuff.”**
 - b. I need to get choosy and toss out details that do not matter.**
 - c. My topic is still too big: “Weather,” “World Peace,” and “All About Computers.”**
 - d. I think a reader would still have some important questions: “Who is Pearl? I can’t tell if she’s your aunt or your pet goldfish.” “Does global warming affect weather?” “What actually caused the hot air balloon to crash? I kept waiting for an explanation.”**

Ideas Student Rubric



1 Just Beginning

- a. Someone else who reads my paper might have trouble figuring out what I'm trying to say.
- b. I might not know enough yet about this topic to write.
- c. I'm still thinking on paper. I'm looking for an idea.
- d. I'm not sure what my topic is...OR...maybe my topic is too big: "All About Earth."

Ideas

**Ideas are the content of the message—
what the writing says.**

Key Abilities:

- **State and clarify main points**
- **Provide documented support, elaboration, anecdotes, images, and details**

Ideas

Key Strategies:

- Focus on your subject and make a list of ideas that come to mind
- Take double entry notes to get ideas from reading and make sense of them for yourself
- Show, don't tell
- State main idea clearly
- State purpose and audience
- Expand ideas by adding details
- Group and grow ideas
- Main ideas and supporting details to show development of ideas
- Decide what to include and what to leave out

