6 Traits of Writing
MINI-LESSON
Ideas

- This is your knowledge of the topic
- Your ideas make sense; your message is clear and important
- You elaborate your ideas; you don’t just state them, but you explain them too
- Use your senses to paint a picture
- Details!
Conventions

- Use capitalization correctly
- Proofread and edit
- Use correct spelling
- Use paragraphs that are indented
- Use correct punctuation
Organization

- Prewrite to get all your thoughts in order
- Use a lead to hook the reader in
- Use supporting details where they fit
- Give information at just the right moment
- Use smooth transitions that help your ideas flow together
- Have a beginning, middle, and end
- Have a conclusion that gives the reader a sense of resolution and ties all your ideas together
Voice

- Write to be read
- Connect with your reader
- Write honestly and from the heart
- Care about your writing
- Share your feelings about the topic
- Use expression
- Use language that will bring your topic to life
Word Choice

- Be concise
- Avoid repetition
- Use words correctly
- Use powerful action verbs
- Use specific descriptive nouns
- Don’t use slang!
- Use descriptive adjectives
- Use words to help create a picture in your reader’s mind
Sentence Fluency

- Use different sentence lengths
- Use different sentence structures
- Use different sentence beginnings
- Use complete sentences
- It sounds good when read aloud
- Use figurative language (similes, metaphors, alliteration, etc.)