

# SIX TRAITS OF WRITING

English 2015  
Ms. Anderson

# IDEAS AND CONTENT

- Ideas are:
  - Ideas are the heart of any piece of writing. Ideas are all about information.
  - In a good creative piece, ideas paint pictures in a reader's mind.
  - In an informational piece, strong ideas make hard-to-penetrate text reader friendly.
  - Clarity and details makes ideas work well. Go beyond the obvious. Be an observant writer.









# IDEAS AND CONTENT

- Revise the following sentences and add ideas...
- The man looked kind of funny.
- Her shoes did not seem to fit.
- The food did not look good to me.

# IDEAS

- ⦿ Brainstorm
- ⦿ List 50 things you could write about in the next five minutes. Number all 50, 1-50. GO!



# ORGANIZATION

- Organization is:
  - The internal structure of the writing piece.
  - Making sense of your ideas.
  - Strong introductions. This is what hooks your reader.
  - Gather information in chunks. Adding details. Get rid of what you don't need.
  - Transition words
  - Strong conclusions. End with flair.

# ORGANIZATION

- ◉ Types of organizational structures

- ◉ Main idea and support
- ◉ Solving the mystery
- ◉ Comparison and contrast
- ◉ Question and answer
- ◉ Step by step
- ◉ Chronological recounting of events.
- ◉ Visual patterns
- ◉ Points and counterpoints
- ◉ A recurring theme
- ◉ Multiple perspectives

# SEA SNAKES: CHAMPION DIVERS

- ◉ Read the sentence excerpts on Sea Snakes.
- ◉ Each sentence is number 1-10. Using the numbers put the sentences in order not numerically, but use the numbers as the identifier. List all ten sentences in correct order using the numbers.

# VOICE

- ◉ Voice is many things:
  - ◉ Individuality: be yourself.
  - ◉ Perspective
  - ◉ Expressiveness: Match voice to the purpose.
  - ◉ Sensitivity to the audience: Think of who your audience is...
  - ◉ Enthusiasm for a topic: Care about it.
  - ◉ Confidence: Know your topic.
  - ◉ Voice has the power to hold the readers attention and make the reading more enjoyable.

# VOICE

- On your own paper describe in 10 words what is missing from this passage.

- Sample passage:

I was really excited about going. It would be the best day of the summer. We were going to go rafting.

My mother, father, brother, and sister got to go. They were excited, too. My dad knew a lot of stuff about rafting. This would be neat.

When we got to the river, it looked big. The water was moving fast. I got scared.

It turned out to be fun. We ate sandwiches and drank pop. I wore a life jacket and got wet.

It was the best thing I did all summer.

# VOICE ACTIVITY SAMPLE

*Remember Football.*



Football was so brutal that in 1905, 18 players lost their lives.

Baseball remembers its heroes better. Hollywood, seemingly in cahoots, even does remakes for them. So it's really up to us, a few old photographs and some books nobody reads anymore. And, of course, these terrific ribbed crossover crewneck vintage football jerseys. Any contact with them, and heroes will be instantly recalled (a secret process).

William "Pudge" Walter Heffelfinger. Walter "Eckie" Eckersall. Jim Thorpe. Gus Dorais. Red Grange. Bob Zupke ("I don't look for tackles, I listen for them.") Many more.

**Vintage Football Jersey** (No. 1131). Quilted shoulder pads with horizontal line stitching. Long sleeves styled with five-pieced panels in alternate body stripe accent colors. More patches on elbow. Great under blazers. Women, not that they have to be told, like them also. Imported.

Men's sizes: S (34-36), M (38-40), L (42-44), XL (46-48), XXL (50-52).

Length ranges from 29" to 31". Varies by size.

Colors: Green with Yellow Stripes, Burgundy with Navy Stripes, Navy with Yellow Stripes, Grey with Navy Stripes.

**Care Instructions:** Machine Washable.

# VOICE ACTIVITY SAMPLE AGAIN

## ◉ *A Piece of Time.*

"...But "short and sweet" are in again;  
No more the grievance rankles, For  
Mabel's now curtailed her train And  
shows her dainty ankles."  
—Jessie Pope, circa 1910

It could happen like this.

You're walking up Lafayette St. in Manhattan in this vintage ankle length skirt. It sways as you move, the silky crinkle georgette teasing the imagination of onlookers. You notice a mysterious alleyway that cuts through to Mulberry.

You enter.

"My goodness." The view hasn't changed in a century — cobblestones, shuttered windows, small red-brick buildings; horse-drawn cabs.

At 10th and Broadway, the gent in the top hat walking next to you begins to recite an English poem he learned when we was boy.

**Jessie's Skirt** (No. 3988). Highest quality crinkle georgette. Fully lined. Invisible zipper (interior button on left). 1 ½" waistband with three box pleats on front and back. Ankle length. Imported. Women's sizes: 0 through 20.

Length of garment is approximately 38".

Color: Teal with Floral and Paisley Print in Pink, Blue, Black, and Gold.

**Care Instructions:** Machine Washable.



# Catalog Example: The Heirloom Gladstone Bag

Try looking in the attic first.

You don't have one? Then it's time maybe to go to the secret barn. Somewhere there is one.

And it's filled with everything.

Look...there under that huge pile of saddles and hats...it seems to be the hood of a car. Oh no. It's the Packard. It's the 12-cylinder Packard convertible somebody (Emily?) once drove across the country. The doors are locked.

...but inside the car seems to be stuffed with old clocks, framed oil paintings, a leopard skin, books, boots, brass fishing reels, stamp albums...

You can't take it all in. At the other end of the barn you notice a marble table, a beautiful slim-wheeled two-seat carriage, a stack of a dozen carved chairs, a leather trunk... it's all too much at once...

You trip on something. What is it? A leather suitcase of some kind. You lift it by its handles. It has old European hotel stickers on it. You grab it and practically run...you'll come back to the barn some other time...

In broad daylight you examine it. A beautiful, mellow old leather *Gladstone*. (That's what they used to call them.) Rather defiantly and ruggedly old-fashioned looking.

Strong enough to go down the Nile, across the Alps, through the Canal, over the oceans, but still small enough to carry aboard a plane. A thing like this would cost a fortune these days...

Genuine Gladstone (N<sup>o</sup>. 1006). Rich Brown full-grain cowhide, handsome but meant to be abused. Brass fittings throughout. Cloth-lined. Big enough to swallow a lot, but not too big: 9-1/2" wide x 18" long x 14" tall. \$495.00





# Student Sample #1

## **The Jaguar Snowflake Fur Blazer**

As I walked down the sidewalk on a chilly morning in September, I blushed as a rush of morning traffic passed and people commented on my Jaguar Snowflake Fur Blazer. I could hear the little girls tapping their mothers and asking if they could get one too. I giggled when a burst of autumn air rushed through the sky and watched as the people pulled their coats up to their necks while I was warm all day in my Jaguar Snowflake Fur Blazer. This elegant, pretty and very warm blazer is only \$340.00. The body comes in a variety of colors such as Twinkling Ocean Seaweed Green, Sonic Orange, Polar Mocha Cream and Morning Sky Blue. The fur on the hood is in one color which is titled Mocha Cream Frost Brown. It snaps, zips and buttons in the front with two springs (the color of the body of the blazer) that have rhinestones on the ends of the dangling snowflakes on the two drawstrings. Dry clean only!!

By Bethany F.

# Try This On For Size...

## Introducing the J. Peterman Experience

Think of your absolute favorite item of clothing. What sensory images come to your mind when you think of that one soft, cozy sweatshirt or fluffy warm socks? Does this item have a special memory attached?

There is a catalog by the name of J. Peterman that not only sells special clothing, but also helps you imagine the kind of memories you could have if you purchased the item.

Today you will be writing in a much different voice and style than you are used to. In fact, you have been offered a job at J. Peterman's catalog company (for an astounding salary, I might add) all you need to do is write a sample catalog entry about your favorite item of clothing. Here's the catch: This catalog company caters to the VERY wealthy. You must tune your voice to capture the style of writing that will appeal to only the most affluent of society. Good luck with your challenge!

Item I'm Selling:

*Sensory Details  
That Would Appeal to Rich People*

*Special Memories of This Item*

# VOICE ACTIVITY

- Create a voice for a piece of your clothing. (Please choose something appropriate.)
- Give it a story like in the J. Peterman ads. Several examples shown in class or look online at J. Peterman Catalogue.
- Include a name for your clothing item, sizes, colors (emerald green, watermelon, sunset yellow, etc.), price, and care instructions.
- Draw a picture of your clothing item and color it on a BLANK sheet of paper. Provided for you if you pick it up from the back counter.
- Remember to look at an actual ad and create your ad likewise. Thank you.

# VOICE ACTIVITY

- ◉ Eleven by Sandra Cisneros. 1992
- ◉ As I read the short essay you choose a role:
  - Rachel
  - Mrs. Price
  - Red sweater
  - Rachel's mother
  - Phyllis Lopez
  - Sylvia Saldivar

Write down which role you have chosen.

Write from the role you chose, a journal entry reflecting your day.

# WORD CHOICE

- ◉ Word choice is:
  - ◉ Clear
  - ◉ Precise
  - ◉ Colorful
  - ◉ It conveys both the meaning and the attitude of the writer.
  - ◉ Strong verbs give writing energy.

# TIPS FOR SUCCESS IN WORD CHOICE

## ○ Tips:

- Keep a journal. Write down favorite words or things that sound awesome.
- Collect quotations.
- Think of another way to say it.
- Think verbs.
- Make a picture.
- Words only have power when they carry their own weight.

# ADJECTIVE IN DETAIL ACTIVITY

- Title: (The adjective you have selected)
- \_\_\_\_\_(adj)is NOT \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_(adj)is\_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_(adj)is\_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_(adj)is\_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_(adj)sounds like\_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_(adj)sounds like\_\_\_\_\_
- Another word for \_\_\_\_\_(adj)is\_\_\_\_\_
- One thing about \_\_\_\_\_(adj)is\_\_\_\_\_

# SENTENCE FLUENCY

- Sentence fluency is:
  - The rhythm and flow of sentences.
  - The text is easy to read aloud.
  - A variety of sentence lengths.



# TIPS FOR SUCCESS IN SENTENCE FLUENCY

- Tips:
  - Read aloud—listen to what you have written.
  - Combine sentences.
  - Keep it crisp.
  - Check out those first four words. Are you using the same openers over and over?
  - Don't get breathless. Watch for run-on sentences.

# COMPELLING SENTENCES

- Combine a series of little, choppy sentences into one smooth sentence:
  - The tornado struck.
  - It struck without warning.
  - It caused damage.
  - The damage was extensive.

Rewrite the sentences into one sentence.

Who would like to share their new sentence?

# COMPELLING SENTENCES

- Use connecting words (but, also, nevertheless, however, in addition) to show how ideas relate.
  - The speaker was young, nervous, and inexperienced.
  - She mesmerized the crowd.

Rewrite the two sentences by using a connecting word into one sentence.

# COMPELLING SENTENCES

- Make all pronoun references clear.
  - When he stuffed the parrot into the cage, it made an odd squeaky sound.

What is wrong in this sentence?

# COMPELLING SENTENCES

- Avoid shifts in voice.
  - I was walking down the street on this cold, clear day, and suddenly, you saw this dark cloud on the horizon.

What is wrong in this sentence?

# COMPELLING SENTENCES

- Avoid shifts in number.
  - A person should be careful when they accept a new job.

What is wrong with this sentence?

# CONVENTIONS

- Conventions are:
  - Capitalization
  - Spelling
  - Punctuation
  - Paragraphing
  - Grammar
  - Usage

# TIPS FOR SUCCESS IN CONVENTIONS

- ◉ Tips:
  - ◉ Edit two ways. Edit on screen first. Edit a hard copy—print it out.
  - ◉ Read from the bottom up.
  - ◉ Make all rough drafts double spaced
  - ◉ Start in the middle.
  - ◉ Use proofreading marks.



# CONVENTIONS

- ◉ Conventions activity.
- ◉ Read the following letter.
- ◉ Write the letter using punctuation so that it makes sense.