**Introduction**

A number of different writing frameworks exist for instructional and assessment purposes. Adopting a common framework gives teachers and students the advantage of using a shared language to talk about writing. This unit will focus on one such framework, *6 + 1 Traits of Writing*. Based on research by the Northwest Regional Educational Laboratory (NWREL) in Portland, Oregon, six criteria were initially identified to delineate the essential qualities of writing; the seventh was later added. The main characteristics of writing that this model addresses are:

1. **Ideas:** Ideas make up the content of the piece of writing—the heart of the message.
2. **Organization:** Organization is the internal structure of the piece, the thread of meaning, the logical pattern of the ideas.
3. **Voice:** Voice is the soul of the piece. It’s what makes the writer’s style singular, as his or her feelings and convictions come out through the words.
4. **Word Choice:** Word choice is at its best when it includes the use of rich, colorful, precise language that moves and enlightens the reader.
5. **Sentence Fluency:** Sentence fluency is the flow of the language, the sound of word patterns—the way the writing plays to the ear, not just to the eye.
6. **Conventions:**  Conventions represent the piece’s level of correctness—the extent to which the writer uses grammar and mechanics with precision.
7. **Presentation:** Presentation zeros in on the form and layout—how pleasing the piece is to the eye (Culham, 2003).

These traits are applicable across the grade levels and the curriculum. They can become the focus for writing mini-lessons during the Writing Workshop as well as the framework for assessment. The 6 + 1 Traits can also be embedded in the writing process, particularly the stages of revision and editing:

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| --- |
| **Revision Traits**   * Ideas * Organization * Voice * Word Choice * Sentence Fluency |
| **Editing Traits**   * Conventions * Presentation |

**Grade Levels**

The lessons included in this unit are applicable to grades K-8. Lessons can be utilized by the single-grade teacher as well as the multi-grade teacher. The lessons are formatted in grade bands—K-2, 3-5, and 6-8—to enhance implementation in the multi-grade classroom. One lesson can be taught across the grade levels, with extensions for older students.

**Length of Unit**

The unit is designed to last approximately two-three weeks, with each lesson spanning multiple days. Additional lessons are suggested for unit extensions.

**Curriculum Standards**

Each lesson references the *Elementary Language Arts Standards in Seventh-day Adventist Schools*.

**Integration of *The Core of Adventist Education Curriculum***

The lessons have incorporated the features of *The Core of Adventist Education Curriculum*: Adventist Worldview, Curriculum, Instruction, and Assessment.

**Alignment with the Writing Toolkit**

The format of the lessons in this unit is aligned with the lesson style in the *Writing Toolkit* (2012). (The *Writing Toolkit* may be purchased from Advent Source or accessed online at [www.nadeducation.org](http://www.nadeducation.org).) Lessons include: an intro with Standard(s), *Pathways* Cross-References, Recommended Materials, Suggestions for Additional Mini-lessons; lessons with Connect, Explore, and Practice sections for K-2, 3-5, 6-8; “Apply” and “Share” Ideas; a poster; 3 activity pages aligned with the K-2, 3-5, 6-8 lessons; Assessment Rubric.

**Writing Workshop Resources**

Writing Workshop resources can be found in the *Teachers’ Manuals* of the *Pathways* program or online at www.nadeducation.org. See Appendices A and B for additional resources.