



# Contents

<b>Introduction to the Traits</b> .....	4
<b>Research Roundup</b> .....	8
<b>Program Components</b> .....	10
<b>Program Organization</b> .....	12
<b>Annotated Weekly Plan</b> .....	14
<b>The Traits and the Writing Process</b> .....	21
<b>The Traits and Response to Intervention (RTI)</b> .....	23
<b>The Traits and the Common Core State Standards</b> .....	24
<b>PART 1 Classroom Management</b>	
Creating Spaces for Whole-Class, Small-Group, and Individual Work .....	26
Supplying the Writing Center .....	28
Stocking the Classroom Library .....	29
Scheduling the Week and Planning Instruction .....	31
Using Classroom Technology .....	34
Reaching Out to Families .....	36
Setting a Positive Tone .....	38
Getting the Most Out of Writing Folders .....	39
<b>PART 2 Assessment and Record Keeping</b>	
Using the Scoring Guides .....	40
Scored and Critiqued Benchmark Papers .....	42
Record Keeping .....	45
Converting Scores Into a Grade .....	46
<b>PART 3 Day-to-Day Practices</b>	
Focus Lesson.....	49
Whole-Class Warm-Up Activity .....	50
Benchmark Papers .....	51
Conventions Focus .....	52
Mentor Text Lesson .....	53
Video Screening .....	54
Differentiated Small Groups .....	55
Writing Folder Application .....	56
Independent Writing .....	57
One-on-One Conferences .....	58
Whole-Class Reflection .....	59
Reality Checks .....	60
Scope and Sequence .....	62
Bibliography .....	64



# Annotated Weekly Plan

As you'll see in this walk-through of a week's worth of instruction in the Teaching Guide, Traits Writing provides abundant opportunities to work with the whole class, small groups, and individual students. It also contains opportunities for students to work with their classmates and on their own, ensuring a stimulating, supportive environment in which to learn. Each trait's key quality is covered over a five-day period, which can be extended during the five-day Reality Check between core units.

The unit's three traits and key qualities are clearly spelled out in the unit opener.

Each unit focuses on one mode of writing—informative/explanatory, narrative, or opinion writing. Like the traits, these modes are spiraled throughout the program, ensuring students are comfortable writing in all three modes by year's end. Each mode is covered at least two times throughout the year.

The graphic features a large background with the letters 'W', 'O', 'R', 'D', 'S' in a grid. At the top, three puzzle pieces contain icons: a bookshelf, a speaker, and a magnifying glass. Below these are three sections for weekly focus:

- Week 1 Organization**  
Using Sequence Words and Transition Words ..... 151
- Week 2 Voice**  
Conveying the Purpose ..... 161
- Week 3 Word Choice**  
Selecting Striking Words and Phrases ..... 171

Below the weekly sections is a box for the **Focus Mode: Opinion Writing**, which includes the purpose, writer characteristics, and typical formats.

## Focus Mode: Opinion Writing

Purpose: to construct an argument

The writer

- states a position clearly and sticks with it.
- offers good, sound reasoning.
- provides solid facts, opinions, and examples.
- reveals weaknesses in other positions.
- uses voice to add credibility and show confidence.

Typical opinion writing formats include advertisements, nominations, editorials, speeches, reviews, and opinion writing essays.