



## A Useful Tool—6+1 Trait® Writing: Topic 1

### *Help! I Can't Afford an Editor—A Series to Help You Self-Edit*

#### **Content and Ideas**

The content and ideas are the heart of your manuscript—this is what you have to say. You want your reader to understand what you wrote.

To evaluate your **Content / Ideas**, ask yourself:

- What is my topic/message?
  - Will my reader be able to tell what I'm writing about?
  - Do I tend to go off on tangents?
    - If so, consider eliminating these.
- Do I present enough information to support my topic/message?
- Could any aspect be clarified with more information, sources, or with better examples?
- Do I predict any questions/arguments my reader may have and answer them?
- Could my topic or message be harmful or disrespectful to a particular reader or group?
  - If so, have I sought out sensitivity readers?
- Have I accurately reported all facts?
- Have I cited all necessary sources?
- Will my reader walk away with important insights?