



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

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

Voice

Voice is the personality of the writer (or the narrator) coming through on the page. It is what gives the writing a unique flavor. In a work with strong voice, the reader will get a sense that someone real is on the page.

To evaluate the **voice** of your work, ask yourself:

- How will my readers feel after reading this?
- Is my writing interesting, informative, and powerful?
 - Will the reader want to continue reading after each:
 - sentence?
 - paragraph?
 - section?
 - chapter?
- Does the narrator come across as an authority on this topic?
- Is my enthusiasm for the topic clear and purposeful?
- Do I really like this manuscript?
 - If so, WHAT do you like about it? (What is your favorite part?)
 - If not, WHY not?
 - **NOTE:** If you don't like it, chances are neither will your reader. Identify *why* you don't like it and make changes so that you *do* like it.