



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

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

Word Choice

Word choice is what makes writing sharp. It gives an exactness to details and helps paint memorable pictures in the reader's mind. Choose words that make the writing sound natural and precise.

To evaluate **word choice**, ask yourself:

- Are the same words used repetitively?
 - If so, are there other options that would be more precise?
 - **Note:** Be judicious in your use of a thesaurus (i.e., will your reader understand what your words mean?).
- Have I used some words that I really love?
- Do I use any derogatory language?
 - If so, did I choose my words with intention?
- Do I use words that are exact?
- Do I use vocabulary related to the content area?
- Do I use jargon?
 - If so, do I define it?
- Do I use verbs that are:
 - active?
 - powerful?
 - energetic?
- Could I exchange any “to be” verbs with something more precise?