

## Eighth Grade Six Traits Charts

### Idea

- **One clear topic**

*Strategies:* Narrow and focused topic, question, opinion, claim, or thesis;  
Author's position; Theme; Central idea; Point of view

- **Meaningful details that support the idea**

*Strategies:* Paraphrase; Summarize; Main ideas; Narrator; Characters: physical description, expressions, gestures; Dialogue; Character reflection;  
Plot: rising action, climax, falling action, resolution; Reasons; Facts; Evidence; Similarities/Differences; Claims; Counterclaims; Rebuttal of counterclaims; Definitions; Quotes; Problems/Solutions; Text analysis; Graph; Illustration; Purpose

- **Details that show not tell**

*Strategies:* Description; Action

### Organization

- **Structure**

*Strategies:* Chronological order; Logical sequence; Question/Answer; Compare/Contrast; Classification; Problem/Solution; Analysis; Business letter

- **Plan**

*Strategies:* Take notes; Outline; Research

- **Introduction: Engages the reader**

*Strategies:* Action; Onomatopoeia; Fact; Question; Riddle; Repeating line; List; Dialogue; Description; Shocking statement; Quote; Rhetorical question; Anecdote

- **Paragraphs**

*Strategies:* Topic sentence; Details; End or Transition; Headings

- **Conclusion: Ties it all together**

*Strategies:* Reflection; Recommendation; Resolution; Question; Restate topic; Answers question; Call to action; Strong statement; Summarize

- **Credible sources**

*Strategies:* Print; Digital; Bibliography; Works cited

## Voice

- **Audience awareness**

*Strategies:* Academic vocabulary; Formal/Informal

- **Tone and mood**

*Strategies:* Joyful; Angry; Sad; Excited; Surprised; Persuasive; Mysterious; Objective; Playful; Inquisitive; Serious; Nervous; Humorous; Sarcastic; Frustrated; Melancholic; Suspenseful; Confident; Proudful; Authoritative; Vengeful; Hopeful; Dramatic

## Word Choice

- **Vivid verbs**

*Strategies:* Replace overused verbs

- **Naming nouns**

*Strategies:* Nouns are specific

- **Adjectives and adverbs**

*Strategies:* Use descriptive words with nouns and verbs

- **Figurative language**

*Strategies:* Sensory details; Simile; Metaphor; Hyperbole; Onomatopoeia; Personification; Alliteration; Idiom

- **Academic language**

*Strategies:* Discipline-specific; Domain-specific

## Sentence Fluency

- **Complete sentences**

*Strategies:* Fix run-on sentences; Fix inappropriate fragments

- **Sentence beginnings**

*Strategies:* Prepositional phrase; Adverb; Adjective; Appositive; Gerund; Participial phrase

- **Transitions**

*Strategies:* Sequence; Location; Time; Compare/Contrast; Cause/Effect; Emphasis; Summarize

- **Sentence structure**

*Strategies:* Compound and Complex sentences

- **Rhythm**

*Strategies:* Read aloud to ensure it flows

## **Conventions**

- **Grammar**

*Strategies:* Place phrases and clauses within a sentence; Active/Passive voice;  
Verb moods: indicative; imperative, conditional, subjunctive

- **Punctuation**

*Strategies:* Commas separate introductory element of a sentence;  
Commas indicate direct address; Commas offset question and “yes”/“no”

- **Capitalization**

*Strategies:* Proper noun; First word in quotations

- **Spelling**

- **Format**

*Strategies:* Neat handwriting for print or cursive; MLA format

## Eighth Grade Genre Charts

### Summary: Narrative

Students will write a summary that:

- Includes a topic sentence that captures the theme
- States the title and author
- Includes only the main ideas from the narrative's plot (story elements)
- Paraphrases information
- Word choice reflects the author's tone and mood
- Uses transition words
- Includes a concluding sentence

### Summary: Informational

Students will write a summary that:

- Includes a topic sentence that captures the central idea
  - States the title and author
  - Includes only the main ideas
  - Paraphrases information using academic language
  - Follows same organizational structure as author
  - Uses transition words
  - Includes a concluding sentence
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### Narrative: Personal

Students will write a narrative essay that:

- Engages the reader by introducing the narrator and situation
- Organizes events to unfold naturally; manipulates time and pacing
- Develops details of events with description and action
- Develops characters with physical description, dialogue, expressions, and gestures
- Uses vivid verbs, sensory details, similes, metaphors, and an idiom to set tone and mood
- Uses transitions and varies sentence beginnings
- Concludes with a reflection

### Narrative: Fictional

Students will write a narrative essay that:

- Engages the reader by introducing the narrator and situation
  - Organizes events to unfold naturally; manipulates time and pacing
  - Develops a plot with conflict, rising action, climax, falling action, and resolution
  - Develops characters with physical description, dialogue, expressions, and gestures
  - Uses vivid verbs, sensory details, similes, metaphors, and an idiom to set tone and mood
  - Uses transitions and varies sentence beginnings
  - Concludes with a resolution
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## Argument

Students will write an argumentative essay that:

- Engages the reader and establishes a clear claim
  - Organizes information to support claim
  - Develops and supports claim with reasons and evidence using multiple sources
  - Uses academic language
  - Shows an awareness of audience by anticipating and addressing counterclaims
  - Uses transitions and varies sentence beginnings
  - Uses an appropriate conclusion
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## Information: Question

Students will write an expository essay that:

- Asks a thoughtful question
- Compares and discusses relevant information using multiple sources
- Uses academic language that shows an awareness of audience
- Uses transitions and varies sentence beginnings
- Concludes with an answer to question based on research

## Information: Classification

Students will write an expository essay that:

- Engages the reader and establishes a clear thesis
- Categorizes information with headings
- Develops topic with facts, definitions, details, quotations, and examples
- Uses academic language that shows an awareness of audience
- Uses transitions and varies sentence beginnings
- Includes graph or illustration to aid comprehension
- Uses an appropriate conclusion

## Information: Compare/Contrast

Students will write an expository essay that:

- Engages the reader and establishes a clear thesis
- Organizes information with compare/contrast structure
- Develops topic with facts, definitions, details, quotations, and examples
- Uses academic language that shows an awareness of audience
- Uses transitions and varies sentence beginnings
- Includes graph or illustration to aid comprehension
- Uses an appropriate conclusion

### **Information: Problem/Solution**

Students will write an expository essay that:

- Engages the reader and establishes a clear thesis that states the problem
  - Organizes information with problem/solution structure
  - Develops the problem and solution with reasons and evidence using multiple sources
  - Uses academic language
  - Shows an awareness of audience by anticipating and addressing counters to solution
  - Uses transitions and varies sentence beginnings
  - Uses an appropriate conclusion
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### **Literary Analysis**

Students will write an analysis of literature that:

- Engages the reader and establishes a clear thesis
- Analyzes use of themes from traditional works in modern fiction
- Uses evidence from the texts to support thesis
- Uses a simile or a metaphor
- Uses transitions and varies sentence beginnings
- Concludes with a strong statement

### **Literary Analysis Non-Fiction**

Students will write an analysis of non-fiction literature that:

- Engages the reader and states the author's position
  - Evaluates the author's claim and the relevancy and sufficiency of the evidence
  - Uses academic language that shows an awareness of audience
  - Uses transitions and varies sentence beginnings
  - Concludes with a summary of the main points
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### **Business Letter**

Students will write a business letter that:

- Engages the reader and establishes purpose
- Uses the proper business letter format
- Includes the most important details
- Shows an awareness of audience
- Uses transitions and varies sentence beginnings
- Uses an appropriate conclusion

### **Informative/Explanatory: Job Application**

Students will complete a job application by:

- Inserting appropriate information into specific sections of the application
- Establishing a formal writing style for narrative sections
- Using appropriate conventions