

## **6 Traits Writing**

At Gilbert Christian Schools helping Christian students become effective writers is a priority. We have chosen to speak to students about their writing with vocabulary and concepts based on a method of instruction that emphasizes 6 writing traits. The 6 traits are inter-related qualities that define good writing. All writing begins with a story to tell or an idea to communicate. Gilbert Christian School students learn to formulate fantastic ideas. No child need say, "I don't know what to write about" because children learn skills to decide on a main idea. Ideas are foundational and affect all other traits because the ultimate key to writing lies in knowing a topic well and having something to say. Next, our method of instruction shows students how to make the message easy to follow through effective organization, how to reach readers with a compelling voice, how to fine-tune writing with precise word choice, and how to make writing rhythmic and readable through sentence fluency. Conventions and presentation are constantly applied and integrated into every unit on writing. Learning to assess their own writing and make improvements is another important skill taught at Gilbert Christian School. Students are introduced to the 6 Traits as early as kindergarten, but are formally instructed on each trait beginning in fourth grade and continuing until high school graduation. To learn more about 6 Traits and how Arizona assesses student writing for the AIMS test go to the state web site:

<http://www.ade.state.az.us/standards/aims/sampletests/6trait/>