



Possibilities for Using the Writing Continuum

- This is an instructional tool, just like a running record.
- This is a teachers' guide to learning and teaching the 6 +1 traits.
 - When you have planned a mini-lesson using Lucy Calkins, use the continuum to see which traits are being used.
 - Incorporate the trait language into the Calkins' mini-lessons
 - If you tally the traits you've taught in mini-lessons, you can determine what traits you need to cover in future lessons.
- This is a guide to help you know your students as writers.
- You could copy one per child and put in a binder or clipboard
 - Use to record conferencing notes
 - Date the hash mark when a teaching point (TP) or powerful praise (PP) was made
 - Remember don't always focus on the TP
 - Color code to see how frequently you've had to TP or PP in a specific trait in conferencing
 - The continuum can also be used to score district assessments and get a bird's eye view of your students' strengths and weaknesses.
 - Copy front to back and mark with X's for fall assessment and O's for spring assessment. This can help you as a teacher to see which areas are being taught most and least often. (Look for trends through the entire class)
- The continuum will be available on-line on the district website.