

Warm-Up #7: Strong Verbs for Essay Writing

Step one: Copy the definitions for the following verbs.

1. To **juxtapose**: to place side by side, often for contrast.
Ex: The writer of Family Guy juxtaposes the characters Brian and Peter to enhance their differing intelligence levels.
2. To **imply**: to indicate or suggest without explicitly stating.
Ex: Mrs. Witt's "evil eye" implies that you need to stop talking!
3. To **convey**: to communicate or make known (also to show).
Ex: In "Harrison Bergeron" the author conveys the message that equality is difficult to achieve.
4. To **evoke**: to draw forth or elicit an emotional response.
Ex: Wiesel's memoir Night evokes feelings of emptiness and pain.

Step Two: Copy the following list of literary response essay verbs. Choose three words that you do not already know and look up the definitions. Record those definitions in your notebook.

Useful Verbs for Essays

Alludes to	Entails	Personifies
Attests	Establishes	Portrays
Clarifies	Exemplifies	Represents
Confirms	Explains	Reveals
Connotes	Exposes	Shows
Denotes	Expounds	Signifies
Depicts	Highlights	Substantiates
Determines	Hints	Suggests
Displays	Illustrates	Typifies
Emphasizes	Indicates	Underscores

Extension 1: Using Essay Verbs

Work on one body paragraph in your essay.

Include at least two of the verbs from today's warm-up.

Extension 2: Replacing “to be” Verbs

Review one of your essay paragraphs. Identify all “to be” verbs (is, are, was, were) and replace them with essay verbs.

Ex: “Dickinson’s attitude towards death **is loving**” vs. “Dickinson **conveys** a loving attitude towards death.”

*Remember to write about literature in the present tense. Instead of “Shakespeare conveyed” or “Shakespeare is conveying,” use “Shakespeare conveys.”