

NAME: _____

Due: Friday, September 18th

MORA - LA/SS: 15 points

Summer Break Imagery - "Bring me back to summer!"

First Draft: Focus on one small moment of your summer break and write a descriptive paragraph that brings it to LIFE for the reader. Try to appeal to the **5 senses** (sight, scent, touch, sound, taste). A paragraph consists of, at least, 5 sentences.

[illegible]

Refined Second Draft: Strengthen your writing by **replacing** some of the language you used in the first paragraph with more colorful and vivid language. Use specific nouns, vivid verbs, colorful adjectives and words with feeling. Think of it as a two minute video rather than a snapshot! 😊

This image shows a single sheet of white paper with horizontal blue or grey ruling lines, typical of notebook paper. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There is no handwriting or other markings on the paper.

CHOOSE SPECIFIC NOUNS

Some nouns are general (car, house, animal) and give the reader only a fuzzy picture. Other nouns are specific (minivan, cabin, skunk) and give the reader a much clearer, more detailed picture. Very specific nouns can make your writing clear and colorful.

Examples:

woman ⇨ writer ⇨ Lois Lowry

monument ⇨ national monument ⇨ Statue of Liberty

food ⇨ snack food ⇨ popcorn

CHOOSE VIVID VERBS

Use vivid, action-packed verbs to make your writing lively and interesting. For example, the vivid verbs *surveyed*, *glared*, *observed*, *spied*, and *inspected* all say more than an overused, ordinary verb such as *looked*. Avoid using the “be” verbs (is, are, was, were) too often. Many times a better verb can be made from another word in the same sentence.

Examples:

A “be” verb: Rosa **is** a persuasive speaker in debates.

A stronger verb: Rosa **speaks** persuasively in debates.

CHOOSE COLORFUL ADJECTIVES

Use specific, colorful adjectives to describe the nouns in your writing. Strong adjectives make the nouns you choose even more interesting and clear to the reader. Avoid adjectives that are used so frequently that they carry little meaning.

Overused adjectives: *neat*, *big*, *pretty*, *small*, *cute*, *fun*, *bad*, *nice*, *good*, *dumb*, *great*, and *funny*.

Use adverbs when you think they can help describe the action in a sentence. For example, the adverb “barely” clarifies the action in the following sentence: “We *barely* squeezed through the subway door before it slid shut.”

CHOOSE WORDS WITH FEELING

The words you include in your writing should not only be specific and colorful, but they should also have the right feeling or connotation. Let’s say you are writing about a particular dream. If this dream happens to scare you every time you think about it, you can’t simply call it a dream. Nor can you call it a fantasy or a vision or an omen. Those words don’t have the right connotation. You’re talking about a *nightmare*. That’s the word with the right feeling.

Don’t settle for just any old word – find the word with the right meaning and feeling.