

FIGURE 6.1

Student Writing Guide for WORD CHOICE



6

- My word choice is clear and creative.
- I stretched for the word or phrase that was just right.
- Every word counts. If I repeated, I meant to do it.
- I used many strong verbs—and found my own way to say things. Look for stand-out moments.
- My words make pictures in your mind, touch your senses, or take you right inside my thinking.

5

- I wrote to make meaning clear—not to impress you.
- There are moments you'll notice or remember.
- My writing is concise. If I repeated, it works.
- Look for strong verbs—and some read-aloud moments.
- My words create meaning or help you picture things.

4

- My writing makes sense. I used words correctly.
- You'll spot a moment or two to highlight.
- Not much repetition. Not many wordy moments.
- In spots I tried too hard—or not hard enough!
- You will get the main idea.

3

- I have too many vague words: *nice, good, fun*.
- There's at least *one* part I like, however.
- Parts are wordy—or else I didn't say enough.
- I need more verbs—and more *precise* words.
- I'm still finding the "right" words to say what I mean.

2

- Some words seem unclear—or maybe incorrect.
- I wrote down the first words I thought of.
- Caution: Repetition! Fuzzy language! Wordiness!
- Strong verbs? No way! It's all *is, are, was, were*.
- The reader will need to work to "get the message."

1

- I struggled just to get words on the page.
- I wasn't sure what to say—or how to say it.
- I didn't say enough—or I just repeated things.
- I used the same old words I *always* use.
- I need help with word choice—or the whole message.

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