

Strong Verbs for AP English Essays

The Writer or Narrator or Text

alludes to	depicts	ignites	produces
argues	describes	illuminates	refutes
asserts	develops	illustrates	repudiates
bolsters	differentiates	implies	reveals
changes	dispels	introduces	shifts
clarifies	elicits	inspires	solidifies
compares	emphasizes	invokes	specifies
construes	enhances	juxtaposes	suggests
contrasts	establishes	maintains	tackles
conveys	evokes	manipulates	transcends
creates	explains	masters	transforms
delineates	explores	portrays	twists
demonstrates	fosters	presents	

Taboo Words in AP English Essays

1. Pretty (pretty good, pretty ugly, etc.)
2. There for me (usually in reference to mothers/friends)
3. There is..., there are..., It is..., It was..., (just begin with the noun that follows)
4. And then, but then, (double-eliminate conjunction)
5. Just, even, and ever/again (He was just sure..., he is not even..., no one could ever again...)
6. In conclusion,
7. being (being that..., being as..., his being a giant is...)
8. really (as opposed to fakely?)
9. They got finished vs They finished.
10. you (do not speak directly to the reader and don't use "you" as a throw-away term for people in general)
11. somewhat (a meaningless adjective)
12. "seems" (tentative sounding--as in "imagery seems . . .").
13. so. "He was so angry," "so happy," "so sad" . . . 'So' is used to avoid having to think of a more precise word - enraged? thrilled? miserable? Often when I see 'so' in a sentence such as "he was so happy," I'm automatically waiting for the 'that' clause to follow, and I have to back up and reread. Some people have relied on 'so' to the point that it has lost what little intensifying power it had and now resort to sooooo or SO. This is starting to get to me as well.
14. "paints a picture"

"Don't deal with 'what if', but with what is."