

WHAT WRITERS DO

Another Incomplete List

Consider using these verbs about what writers do. Practice here will help you avoid summarizing plots or paraphrasing poetry by keeping the focus on the writers. The words in brackets from the list offer only a few samples of where the thought may be going. For each statement, though, follow through and tell why the writers do what they do. Sentences will end differently depending on the purpose of your paragraph.

SAMPLE STARTERS

- Morrison creates Pilot, a woman with no navel, to [suggest/evoke/contrast...]....
- Shakespeare has Lady Macbeth walk in her sleep in order to [recall/portray/arouse...]....
- Wilbur uses the nature imagery in the central stanza to [heighten/imply/reinforce...]....
- O'Brien introduces the novel's unrealistic elements to [slow/reveal/juxtapose...]....

SUGGESTION

allude to
hint at
imply
offer
suggest

TENOR

lighten relieve
brighten
darken
reduce, subdue
mute

TIME & PACE

quicken, accelerate
delay, slow
anticipate
foretell, presage
recall, remind

PRESENTATION

introduce
reveal
show, portray
demonstrate
conclude

ARRANGEMENT

group, array
order
align, misalign
coordinate
repeat, reflect
juxtapose
respond
differentiate
compare, contrast

CHANGE

alter
change
shift
manipulate
temper
qualify
restore, refresh
embellish
transcend

EVOCATION

create
establish
arouse, awaken
conjure up
elicit, evoke
ignite
inspire
invoke
provoke, stir

ASSERTION

assert
convey
affirm
maintain
indicate
explain
clarify
signify
explore

INTENSITY

strengthen, reinforce
heighten
intensify, fortify
increase, augment
amplify
emphasize, underscore
enhance

solidify
substantiate
support
lessen
weaken
diminish
dispel

CRITICISM

promote
praise
exalt, extol
glorify
subordinate
oppose
refute

criticize
reject, repudiate
deplore
attack, condemn
ridicule, deride
mock
parody