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 **evolve**: 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
- Attests
- Clarifies
- Confirms
- Connotes
- Denotes
- Depicts
- Determines
- Displays
- Emphasizes
- Entails
- Establishes
- Exemplifies
- Explains
- Exposes
- Expounds
- Highlights
- Hints
- Illustrates
- Indicates
- Personifies
- Portrays
- Represents
- Reveals
- Shows
- Signifies
- Substantiates
- Suggests
- Typifies
- 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.”