

WORD CHOICE:



Content-Specific Action Verbs

50 EARTH SCIENCE

fill	drift	settle	diverge
flow	support	collapse	cut
decrease	moderate	precipitate	increase
turn	radiate	travel	build
change	compact	cleave	maintain
dissolve	overturn	raise	sift
reflect	weaken	erode	originate
cement	split	accumulate	melt
date	drop	migrate	arrange
intensify	weather	sink	shorten
develop	move	form	converge
spin	release	disintegrate	
absorb	float	elongate	

50 BIOLOGY VERBS

verbs	die	graft	react
interact	perform	mutate	deoxygenate
act	breathe	impede	respond
inflamm	cross	acidify	exchange
produce	evolve	block	secrete
process	stimulate	oxygenate	transmit
synthesize	dehydrate	nourish	disperse
filter	flow	reproduce	control
fertilize	pump	excrete	connect
transport	contract	differentiate	decompose
hydrate	protect	ingest	expand
develop	digest	function	
metabolize	divide	proliferate	

50 CHEMISTRY VERBS

separate	implode	oxidize	respond
fuse	form	react	bond
remain	dissolve	saturate	raise
explode	free	complete	discharge
level	maintain	join	equate
cool	contain	lower	melt
release	produce	calculate	affect
differ	behave	balance	absorb
transfer	repel	remove	share
occur	burn	change	equalize
mix	deploy	control	evaporate
attract	involve	act	
liquify	heat	exchange	

50 MUSIC VERBS

echo	energize	rise	skitter
diverge	vary	intone	converge
beat	jump	hold	pound
repeat	accent	modulate	express
perform	chant	rest	interpret
blend	synchronize	trill	jam
embellish	flow	tune	slide
wail	clash	stylize	counter
reverberate	soften	conduct	amplify
swing	vocalize	compose	croon
harmonize	burst	fall	evoke
intensify	orchestrate	accompany	
syncopate	improvise	vamp	

50 PHYSICS VERBS

push	drive	signal	lower
burn	measure	repel	engage
disengage	implode	counteract	contract
melt	collect	raise	differentiate
turn	attract	adhere	ate
calibrate	recycle	expand	balance
explode	fly	spin	reflect
gather	cohere	convert	meet
touch	float	bounce	draw
vibrate	sink	launch	reverse
pull	exert	ignite	react
flow	deflect	rotate	force
evaporate	relay	act	

50 ART VERBS

lead	juxtapose	adorn	overshadow
express	depict	memorialize	obscure
portray	indicate	idealize	represent
contrast	ornament	outline	highlight
emphasize	comment	darken	compose
point to	balance	cover	mix
repeat	distort	symbolize	mark
recognize	lighten	illustrate	suggest
dramatize	reflect	enclose	exaggerate
stroke	convey	unify	sculpt
focus	define	intensify	layer
fill	cross	exhibit	
evoke	imply	sharpen	

SOURCE: *Writing in the Content Areas*, Amy Benjamin

WORD CHOICE:



Content-Specific Action Verbs

50 MATH VERBS

add	assume	express	determine
factor	estimate	designate	equalize
represent	connect	justify	compare
suppose	evaluate	draw	calculate
vary	order	divide	depend
measure	coincide	plot	interpret
simplify	extrapolate	intersect	distribute
predict	multiple	bisect	construct
differ	graph	change	follow
operate	substitute	match	demonstrate
subtract	function	solve	find
correspond	slope	assign	
travel	apply	arrange	

50 BUSINESS VERBS

buy	liquidate	lose	settle
increase	deduct	manufacture	collect
account for	return	purchase	count
cash in	profit	transact	owe
exchange	set up	borrow	tender
pitch	balance	stock	present
save	sign	remit	hold
reduce	trade	offer	hire
transfer	decline	bid	serve
close	bill	risk	agree
sell	advertise	spend	evaluate
decrease	order	supply	
pay	invest	negotiate	

50 GOVERNMENT VERBS

pursue	report	enforce	institute
vote	adjudicate	assert	lobby
enact	restrict	regulate	file
administrate	argue	oppose	support
influence	oversee	maintain	tyrannize
agitate	reform	investigate	deliberate
advocate	promote	decide	arbitrate
supervise	report	prosecute	impose
intervene	qualify	rule	initiate
restrain	govern	democratize	argue
elect	defend	debate	represent
empower	propose	deregulate	
veto	campaign	decree	

50 LITERATURE VERBS

evoke	rhyme	express	portray
infer	represent	suggest	mean
begin	expose	exaggerate	analyze
clash	entail	denote	explain
symbolize	understate	narrate	imagine
describe	persuade	imply	motivate
foreshadow	translate	coincide	specify
sequence	express	compare	conflict
dramatize	contrast	connect	conclude
retell	end	interpret	illustrate
convey	alliterate	summarize	depict
ascertain	relate	personify	
proceed	inform	characterize	

50 HISTORY VERBS

cause	follow	control	dominate
force	support	believe	lead to
rebel	result	isolate	export
explore	trade	influence	import
increase	turn	invade	develop
decrease	decline	expand	demand
reign	covert	form	urbanize
produce	affect	grow	begin
reflect	rule	industrialize	advance
rise	establish	end	worship
retreat	build	practice	govern
change	contribute	integrate	
attack	modernize	conflict	

50 FOREIGN LANGUAGE VERBS

be	give	help	have
see	act	refuse	dislike
listen	lack	plan	go
eat	work	make	show
buy	think	like	use
look for	pick	come	learn
understand	do	put	wait
meet	ask	change	stop
die	speak	live	fix
offer	feel	sell	order
say	call	need	travel
want	walk	touch	
take	find	hold	

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