

Strong Sentences (2-3 word sentences)

Guidelines/Rules:

- **Give each paragraph a title**
- **Each “sentence” should be only two words.**
- **The sentences follow a Noun then Verb pattern.**
 - **Pronouns are allowed to avoid repetition if used correctly.**
- **The sentence is allowed to be three words ONLY IF a small word like “a, an, or the” are in front of the noun.**
- **NO word is allowed to come after the verb.**
- **The verb must be an action verb.**
- **The verbs “am, is, are, was, and were” are outlawed.**
- **The first sentence of the paragraph should be indented.**
- **The paragraph should tell a story.**
- **At least half of your sentences should include a starred word, signifying an exceptional (or “bumped-up”) word.**
 - **A thesaurus can help in using an impressive vocabulary**
- **Because they are short sentences, spelling is part of this grade. Use the dictionary or thesaurus to help you spell the words correctly.**

This activity is done because many writers, young and old, overuse the verbs “am, is, our, was, and were.” This activity helps to break writers of this habit and encourage them to be more descriptive in their writing and word choice. It also gives practice in using the thesaurus, and encourages them to use bigger words. Finally, it helps them to get used to selecting words that will “paint a picture in their reader’s minds” of what they want them to see when they write.

Example

The Baseball Game

The crowd erupted. The batter approached. The pitcher glared. He prepared. He threw. The batter swung. He missed. The crowd booed. The pitcher smirked. He threw. The batter concentrated. He swung. The bat cracked. The ball soared. The outfielder chased. He stopped. The outfielder turned. The crowd cheered. The batter trotted. He scored. The game concluded.