**AP English 11/12**

**Verbs**

**Choose 5 and commit to memory as your ‘go to’ terms.**

These verbs will be especially effective *when the subject is the author or a character*. They are excellent *replacements for “be” verbs* and instrumental in the formulation of *thesis* and *theme* statements. Careful use of these verbs can result in precise identification of an author’s *purpose*.

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| accentuates | accepts | achieves | adopts | advocates |
| affects | alleviates | allows | alludes | alters |
| analyzes | approaches | argues | ascertains | assesses |
| assumes | attacks | attempts | attributes | avoids |
| bases | believes | challenges | changes | characterizes |
| chooses | chronicles | claims | comments | compares |
| compels | completes | concerns | concludes | condescends |
| conducts | conforms | confronts | considers | contends |
| contests | contrasts | contributes | conveys | convinces |
| defines | defies | demonstrates | depicts | describes |
| delineates | despises | details | determines | develops |
| deviates | differentiates | differs | directs | disappoints |
| discovers | discusses | displays | disputes | disrupts |
| distinguishes | distorts | downplays | dramatizes | elevates |
| elicits | emphasizes | encounters | enhances | enriches |
| enumerates | envisions | evokes | excludes | expands |
| experiences | explains | expresses | extends | extrapolates |
| fantasizes | focuses | forces | foreshadows | functions |
| generalizes | guides | heightens | highlights | hints |
| holds | honors | identifies | illustrates | illuminates |
| imagines | impels | implies | includes | indicates |
| infers | inspires | intends | interprets | interrupts |
| inundates | justifies | juxtaposes | lambasts | laments |
| lampoons | lists | maintains | makes | manages |
| manipulates | minimizes | moralizes | muses | notes |
| observes | opposes | organizes | overstates | outlines |
| patronizes | performs | permits | personifies | persuades |
| ponders | portrays | postulates | prepares | presents |
| presumes | produces | projects | promotes | proposes |
| provides | qualifies | questions | rationalizes | reasons |
| recalls | recites | recollects | records | recounts |
| reflects | refers | regards | regrets | rejects |
| represents | results | reveals | ridicules | satirizes |
| seems | sees | selects | specifies | speculates |
| states | strives | suggests | summarizes | supplies |
| supports | suppresses | symbolizes | sympathizes | traces |
| understands | vacillates | values | verifies |  |

**Verbs to use instead of “exemplify”**

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| appears | asserts | attests to | certifies | confirms |
| connotes | corroborates | defines | demonstrates | denotes |
| depicts | discloses | elucidates | endorses | establishes |
| evinces | exhibits | expounds | exposes | intimates |
| manifests | points to | proves | ratifies | relates |
| shows | substantiates | suggests | typifies | upholds |
| validates |  |  |  |  |

**Adjectives for use in Literary/Rhetorical Discussion**

**Describing the Author**

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| cultured | intellectual | erudite | well-read | sagacious |
| sensible | rational | philosophic | analytical | imaginative |
| perceptive | visionary | prophetic | optimistic | broad-minded |
| idealistic | spiritual | orthodox | unorthodox | sympathetic |
| sophisticated | original | whimsical | humorous | conservative |
| liberal | progressive | radical | reactionary | unprejudiced |
| realistic | romantic | shallow | superficial | bigoted |
| opinionated | intolerant | hypocritical | fanatical | provincial |
| narrow-minded | sentimental | skeptical | cynical |  |

**Describing Style/Content**

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| lucid | graphic | intelligible | explicit | precise |
| exact | concise | succinct | condensed | pithy |
| piquant | aphoristic | syllogistic | allusive | metaphorical |
| poetic | prosaic | plain | simple | homespun |
| pure | vigorous | forceful | eloquent | sonorous |
| fluent | glib | natural | restrained | smooth |
| polished | classical | artistic | bombastic | extravagant |
| rhetorical | turgid | pompous | grandiose | obscure |
| vague | diffuse | verbose | pedantic | ponderous |
| ungraceful | harsh | abrupt | labored | awkward |
| unpolished | crude | vulgar | formal | artificial |
| utilitarian | humanistic | pragmatic | naturalistic | impressionistic |
| subjective | melodramatic | fanciful | authentic | plausible |
| credible | recondite | controversial | mystical | improbable |
| absurd | trivial | commonplace | heretical |  |

**Describing Diction**

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| high or formal | low or informal | neutral | precise | exact |
| concrete | abstract | plain | simple | homespun |
| esoteric | learned | cultured | literal | figurative |
| connotative | symbolic | picturesque | sensuous | literary |
| provincial | colloquial | slang | idiomatic | neologistic |
| inexact | euphemistic | trite | obscure | pedantic |
| bombastic | grotesque | vulgar | jargon | emotional |
| obtuse | moralistic | ordinary | scholarly | insipid |
| proper | pretentious | old-fashioned |  |  |

**Describing Syntax**

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| loose | periodic |  balanced | interrupted | simple |
| compound | complex | compound-complex | declarative | interrogative |
| imperative | exclamatory | telegraphic | antithetic | inverted |
| euphonic | rhythmical | epigrammatic | emphatic | incoherent |
| rambling | tortuous | jerky | cacophonic | monotonous |
| spare | austere | unadorned | jumbled | chaotic |
| obfuscating | journalistic | terse | laconic | mellifluous |
| musical | lilting | lyrical | elegant | solid |
| thudding | dry | ornate | elaborate | flowery |
| erudite | grating | staccato | abrupt | sprawling |

**Describing Organization/Structure/Point of View**

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| spatial | chronological | flashback | flash forward | in media res |
| step-by-stepreflectivenostalgic | limitedcontemplativeimpersonal | omniscientflashbackreminiscent | chronologicalclinicaldramatic | objectiveflash forward |

**Describing Imagery (**Substitute these for less precise adjectives such as *vivid,* *colorful, powerful*.)

Bucolic pastoral gustatory olfactory tactile

Kinetic kinesthetic sensual sacred sexual

Auditory religious animal war/military chaotic

**Describing Characters** (Great substitutions for *pretty* and *ugly!*)

**Physical Qualities**

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| manly | virile | robust | hardy | sturdy |
| strapping | stalwart | muscular | brawny | lovely |
| fair | comely | handsome | dainty | delicate |
| graceful | elegant | shapely | attractive | winsome |
| ravishing | dapper | immaculate | adroit | dexterous |
| adept | skillful | agile | nimble | active |
| lively | spirited | vivacious | weak | feeble |
| sickly | frail | decrepit | emaciated | cadaverous |
| effeminate | unwomanly | hideous | homely | course |
| unkempt | slovenly | awkward | clumsy | ungainly |
| graceless | bizarre | grotesque | incongruous | ghastly |
| repellent | repugnant | repulsive | odious | invidious |
| loathsome |  |  |  |  |

**Mental Qualities** (Great substitutions for *smart* and *stupid!*) Which comments would you like to see on your papers?)

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| educated | erudite | scholarly | wise | astute |
| intellectual | precocious | capable | competent | gifted |
| apt | rational | reasonable | sensible | shrewd |
| prudent | observant | clever | ingenious | inventive |
| subtle | cunning | crafty | wily | unintelligent |
| unschooled | unlettered | ignorant | illiterate | inane |
| irrational | puerile | foolish | fatuous | vacuous |
| simple | thick-skulled | idiotic | imbecilic | witless |

**Moral Qualities** (Great substitutes for *good* and *bad!*)

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| idealistic | innocent | virtuous | faultless | righteous |
| guileless | upright | exemplary | chaste | pure |
| undefiled | temperate | abstentious | austere | ascetic |
| puritanical | truthful | honorable | trustworthy | straightforward |
| decent | respectable | wicked | corrupt | degenerate |
| notorious | vicious | incorrigible | dissembling | infamous |
| immoral | unprincipled | reprobate | depraved | indecent |
| ribald | vulgar | intemperate | sensual | dissolute |
| deceitful | dishonest | unscrupulous | dishonorable | base |
| vile | foul | recalcitrant | philandering |  |

**Spiritual Qualities** (More great substitutes for *good* and *bad!*)

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| religious | reverent | pious | devout | faithful |
| regenerate | holy | saintly | angelic | skeptical |
| agnostic | atheistic | irreligious | impious | irreverent |
| profane | sacrilegious | materialistic | carnal | godless |
| diabolic | fiendlike | blasphemous | unregenerate |  |

**Sorrow/Fear/Worry**

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| aggravated | anxious | apologetic | apprehensive | concerned |
| confused | depressed | disturbed | embarrassing | fearful |
| grave | hollow | morose | nervous | numb |
| ominous | paranoid | pessimistic | poignant | remorseful |
| serious | staid | enigmatic |  |  |

**Submission/Timidity**

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| aghast | alarmed | ashamed | astonished | astounded |
| awed | contrite | self-deprecatory | docile | fawning |
| groveling | ingratiating | meek | modest | obedient |
| obsequious | resigned | respectful | reverent | servile |
| shy | submissive | surprised | sycophantic | terrified |
| timid | tremulous | unpretentious |  |  |

**Social Qualities** (Terrific substitutions for *nice* and *mean!*)

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| civil | amicable | contentious | unpolished | sullen |
| tactful | courteous | cooperative | genial | affable |
| hospitable | gracious | amiable | cordial | congenial |
| convivial | jovial | jolly | urbane | suave |
| anti-social | acrimonious | quarrelsome | antagonistic | misanthropic |
| discourteous | imprudent | impolite | insolent | ill-bred |
| ill-mannered | unrefined | rustic | provincial | boorish |
| brusque | churlish | fawning | obsequious | sniveling |
| grumpy | fractious | crusty | peevish | petulant |
| waspish | taciturn | reticent | gregarious | garrulous |