

Cougar Writing Camp

Word Choice



Why focus on word choice?

- Verbs are the MOST important of all your tools.
- Keep the vocabulary natural.
- Play around with words until they sound good.

Sensory Details!

The best writing creates a vivid picture in the reader's mind.

Well-selected words appeal to the senses. As you write, pick words that describe the sight, sound, touch, taste, or smell of your subject. Even with nonfiction, you want to tell a story and evoke a mood. By appealing to one or more of your reader's senses, you create a compelling message. Information delivered with descriptive words is more memorable, leaving a lasting impression on the reader.

Use a Thesaurus!!!!

A thesaurus can be a writer's best friend. After writing the first draft of an article, use the thesaurus to find synonyms that are more dynamic than the words you've chosen; you'll uncover a world of words you may never have considered!





Screen Version #1

Chicago Bulls forward Dennis Rodman faces yet another suspension by the NBA for his dangerous tirade in Saturday night's game at Chicago. Rodman was ejected with 1:31 left in the first quarter after receiving his second technical foul. Rodman then proceeded to head-butt referee Ted Bernhardt, catching him just above the left eye. In typical fashion, Rodman then ripped off his shirt and stormed around the court, pausing briefly to knock over a water cooler in front of a group of stunned young boys before finally leaving.

Screen Version #2

Chicago Bulls forward Dennis Rodman faces a suspension by the NBA for his wild and theatrical behavior in Saturday night's game at Chicago. Rodman was given his notice of leave with 1:31 left in the first quarter of Saturday's game after receiving his second technical foul. Rodman appeared to have bumped an official during a heated discussion over the foul. Consistent with past heroics, and to the delight of the Chicago faithful, Rodman then removed his shirt as he paraded around the court before finally exiting stage left into his team's locker room.



Version #1

Version # 2