**WORD CHOICE GUIDE: Good things to have to improve “precise”**

**Figurative Language**

1. Simile: comparison of two basically unlike things and using “like or as.”

* She looked like Chunk from “The Goonies.”
* The baby was as delicate as a flower.
* His face was as red as a tomato.
* The pillow was as fluffy as a sheep.

2. Metaphor: Comparison of two basically unlike things without using “like or as.”

* Her skin is the texture of leather.
* He has elephant ears.
* The running back was a freight train running through tackles.

3. Personification: Giving human characteristics to non-human things.

* Flowers danced in the wind.
* Her eyes whispered to me that I should call her.
* The clouds threw down buckets of water.

4. Onomatopoeia – words that reflect sound

* Bam, boom, smack, crack, clod, pop, hum, rumble, buzz, purr, growl

**Vivid/Sensory language**

1. Color: bright, bold, pale, faded, brilliant, light, dark, shiny, fluorescent, dull, pastel, neon, intense, clouded, muddled, shaded.

2. Size: immense, huge, vast, gigantic, massive, enormous, swollen, mammoth, towering, abundant, cumbersome

3. Texture (feel): rubbery, slick, fragile, feathery, oily, lukewarm, clammy, sticky, flexible, coarse, stiff, gnarled, bristly.

4. Sound: piercing, thunderous, barely audible, faint, whisper, scream, hushed, muffled, peep, bellow, blare.

**Sentence Fluency**

**Vary your sentence *type*:**

Simple sentence: one IC and no DC’s

* My back aches.
* My teeth and my eyes hurt.
* I went to the store to get ice cream.
* UNI is one of the best places to attend college.

Compound sentence: two IC’s

* I hate missing school; I miss learning about semicolons in Mr. Dykstra’s class.
* I wanted to play video games, but I realized completing my response journal assignment was more important.

Complex sentence: one IC and 1+ *DC’s*

* *When I get to college*, I will appreciate all of the grammar I have learned.
* I’m really excited about the fall *because of all the falling leaves and football*.

Compound complex sentence: 2+ IC’s and 1+ *DC’s*

* *Even though I was tired*, I walked my dog; but we only walked one mile.
* Vocabulary is fun to learn; however, using the words is difficult *when I’m asked to do it immediately*.

**Vary your sentence *beginnings*:**

* I went to the store to buy more paper for my English class.
* At the store I bought more paper for English class.
* Because my notebook was empty, I went to the store to buy more paper.
* My English teacher said I needed more paper, so I got some.
* To get more paper, I went to the store.