Word Choice

Key Quality: Applying Strong Verbs

THINK ABOUT:
- Have I used action words?
- Did I stretch to get a better word—scurry rather than run?
- Do my verbs give my writing punch and pizzazz?
- Did I avoid is, am, are, was, were, be, being, and been whenever I could?

Key Quality: Selecting Striking Words and Phrases

THINK ABOUT:
- Did I try to use words that sound just right?
- Did I try hyphenating several shorter words to make an interesting-sounding new word?
- Did I try putting words with the same sound together?
- Did I read my piece aloud to find at least one or two moments I love?

Key Quality: Using Specific and Accurate Words

THINK ABOUT:
- Have I used nouns and modifiers that help the reader see a picture?
- Did I avoid using words that might confuse the reader?
- Did I try a new word, and if so, did I check to make sure I used it correctly?
- Are these the best words that can be used?

Key Quality: Choosing Words That Deepen Meaning

THINK ABOUT:
- Did I choose words that show I really thought about them?
- Have I tried to use words without repeating myself?
- Do my words capture the reader’s imagination?
- Have I found the best way to express myself?