


Action Verbs as a Method of Elaboration

Action verbs are methods of elaboration, ways to help writers *make a point* in their writing.

EXAMPLE:

Mama taught me how to be a lady. One of her most important rules was not to *pick* at myself or my clothing, at least in public. When I was a child, if any part of me *itched, ached, burned*, or generally felt the need to be *scratched, rubbed, blown on*, or *tickled*, I *learned to shift* my weight ever so nonchalantly as I *sat* or to *recross* my legs—at the ankles, like a lady—or to *perform* any number of secret maneuvers to *relieve* these untimely annoyances.

 **NOTE:** The author has used *dashes*, which are considered a sophisticated form of punctuation; these are used as a type of *parenthetical insertion*, an *interrupter*.



ACTIVITIES

1. Begin your writing with a *topic sentence*, as in the example. Use at least *five action verbs* to make your point.
2. After five minutes, pass your writing to a neighbor, who will *underline your action verbs* and check to determine whether they were used as *support for your topic sentence*.