

POWER VERBS

This is the list of Power Verbs you need to begin using in your writing. Consider “checking them off” on this packet as you use and master them for each writing assignment. Remember to highlight them in pink on your assignments.

1. **Accommodate:** to make fit, suitable, or congruous: to bring into agreement or concord : RECONCILE: to provide with something desired, needed, or suited (as a helpful service, a loan, or lodgings): to make room for: to hold without crowding or inconvenience: to give consideration to : allow for *accommodate the special interests of various groups*ADAPT, CONTAIN
2. **Achieve:** to carry out successfully : ACCOMPLISH *achieve a gradual increase in production*: to get or attain: REACH *achieved a high degree of skill* *achieved greatness*: to attain a desired end or aim : become successful: PERFORM
3. **Acquire:** to get as one's own: to come into possession or control of often by unspecified means: to come to have as a new or added characteristic, trait, or ability (as by sustained effort or natural selection) *acquire fluency in French* *bacteria that acquire tolerance to antibiotics*: to locate and hold (a desired object) in a detector *acquire a target by radar*
4. **Adapt:** to make fit (as for a specific or new use or situation) often by modification: to ADJUST, ACCOMMODATE, CONFORM, RECONCILE. ADAPT implies a modification according to changing circumstances *adapted themselves to the warmer climate
5. **Affect:** to produce an effect upon: to produce a material influence upon or alteration in *paralysis affected his limbs*: to act upon (as a person or a person's mind or feelings) so as to effect a response : INFLUENCE
6. **Affirm:** VALIDATE, CONFIRM: to state positively: to assert (as a judgment or decree) as valid or confirmed: to express dedication to: to testify or declare by affirmation as distinguished from swearing an oath. Conviction based on evidence, experience, or faith.
7. **Alter:** to make different without changing into something else: to become different :CHANGE
8. **Analyze:** to study or determine the nature and relationship of the parts of by analysis *analyze a traffic pattern* DISSECT, BREAK DOWN
9. **Anticipate:** to give advance thought, discussion, or treatment to: to meet (an obligation) before a due date: to foresee and deal with in advance : FORESTALL: to act before (another) often so as to check or counter: to look forward to as certain : EXPECT: FORESEE
10. **Assert:** to state or declare positively and often forcefully or aggressively: to demonstrate the existence of : DECLARE, AFFIRM,
11. **Benefits:** to be useful or profitable to: to receive benefit
12. **Cease:** : to cause to come to an end especially gradually : no longer continue: to come to an end: to bring an activity or action to an end : DISCONTINUE: to become extinct : DIE OUT: STOP
13. **Challenge:** to dare, to protest, to provoke, to stimulate, to question

14. **Characterize:** to describe the character or quality of *characterizes him as ambitious*: to be a characteristic of : DISTINGUISH *an era characterized by greed*
15. **Clarify:** to free of confusion: to make understandable: to become clear
16. **Coincide:** to occupy the same place in space or time: : to correspond in nature, character, or function: to be in accord or agreement : CONCUR: AGREE
17. **Compel:** to drive or urge forcefully or irresistibly: to cause to do or occur by overwhelming pressure: to drive together: FORCE
18. **Compliments:** to pay a compliment to: to present with a token of esteem
19. **Condemn:** to declare to be reprehensible, wrong, or evil usually after weighing evidence and without reservation: to pronounce guilty : CONVICT b : SENTENCE, DOOM: to adjudge unfit for use or consumption: CRITICIZE
20. **Confirm:** to give approval to : RATIFY: to make firm or firmer: STRENGTHEN: to give new assurance of the validity of : remove doubt about by authoritative act or indisputable fact: CORROBORATE, SUBSTANTIATE, VERIFY, AUTHENTICATE, VALIDATE
21. **Conform:** to give the same shape, outline, or contour to : bring into harmony or accord *conform furrows to the slope of the land* : to be similar or identical : to be in agreement or harmony used with to or with: to be obedient or compliant: to act in accordance with prevailing standards or customs: ADAPT
22. **Confront:** to face especially in challenge : OPPOSE: to cause to meet : bring face-to-face *confront a reader with statistics* b : to meet face-to-face : ENCOUNTER *confronted the possibility of failure*
23. **Console:** to alleviate the grief, sense of loss, or trouble of : COMFORT *console a widow*
24. **Contemplate:** to view or consider with continued attention : meditate on: to view as contingent or probable or as an end or intention: to PONDER, MEDITATE
25. **Contradict:** to assert the contrary of : take issue with: to imply the opposite or a denial of *your actions contradict your words* DENY
26. **Contrast:** to set off in contrast : compare or appraise in respect to differences *contrast European and American manners* to COMPARE
27. **Contribute:** to give or supply in common with others: to play a significant part in bringing about an end or result
28. **Covet:** to wish for enviously: to desire what belongs to another
29. **Criticize:** to consider the merits and demerits of and judge accordingly : EVALUATE: to find fault with : point out the faults of: REPREHEND, CENSURE, REPROBATE, CONDEMN, DENOUNCE
30. **Declare:** to make known formally, officially, or explicitly: to make clear: to make evident : SHOW: to state emphatically : AFFIRM *declares his innocence*: to make a full statement of (one's taxable or dutiable property): to announce (as a trump suit) in a card
31. **Defend:** to maintain or support in the face of argument, to drive danger or attack away from, to prevent, to contest, to take action against or challenge, to PROTECT, SHIELD, GUARD

32. **Demonstrate**: to show clearly: to prove or make clear by reasoning or evidence: to illustrate and explain especially with many examples: to SHOW
33. **Denounce**: to pronounce especially publicly to be blameworthy or evil: PROCLAIM: to announce threateningly: to inform against : ACCUSE: CRITICIZE
34. **Depict**: to represent by or as if by a picture: DESCRIBE
35. **Desire**: to long or hope for : exhibit or feel desire for: to express a wish for : REQUEST: to express a wish to : WISH, WANT, CRAVE, COVET. DESIRE stresses the strength of feeling and often implies strong intention or aim *desires to start a new life*
36. **Disclose**: to open up: to expose to view: to make known or public *demands that politicians disclose the sources of their income*: REVEAL
37. **Displace**: to remove from the usual or proper place: to expel or force to flee from home or homeland: to remove from an office, status, or job: to drive out : BANISH: to move physically out of position *a floating object displaces water* b : to take the place of (as in a chemical reaction) : REPLACE
38. **Display**: to show
39. **Distinguish**: to perceive a difference in : mentally separate *so alike they could not be distinguished*: to mark as separate or different: to separate into kinds, classes, or categories: to give prominence or distinction to *distinguished themselves in music*: CHARACTERIZE: DISCERN *distinguished a light in the distance*: to single out : take special notice of
40. **Dominate**: RULE, CONTROL: to exert the supreme determining or guiding influence on: to overlook from a superior elevation or command because of superior height or position: to have or exert mastery, control, or preeminence
41. **Elate**: to fill with joy or pride
42. **Elevate**: to lift up : RAISE : to raise in rank or status : EXALT: to improve morally, intellectually, or culturally: to raise the spirits of : ELATE
43. **Eliminate**: to cast out or get rid of, to REMOVE, ERADICATE.
44. **Embody**: to give a body to (a spirit) : to make concrete and perceptible: to cause to become a body or part of a body : INCORPORATE: to represent in human or animal form : PERSONIFY *men who greatly embodied the idealism of American life A. M. Schlesinger b1917*
45. **Embrace**: to clasp in the arms : HUG: CHERISH, LOVE: ENCIRCLE, ENCLOSE: to take up especially readily or gladly *embrace a cause*: WELCOME *embraced the opportunity to study further*: to take in or include as a part, item, or element of a more inclusive whole *charity embraces all acts that contribute to human welfare* ADOPT, INCLUDE
46. **Emerge**: to become manifest: to rise from: come out into view: to rise from an obscure or inferior position or condition
47. **Emit**: to throw or give off or out (as light) : to send out : EJECT: to issue with authority: to give utterance or voice to *emitted a groan*

48. **Encounter**: to meet, to engage, to come upon face to face.
49. **Enhance**: RAISE: HEIGHTEN, INCREASE: to increase or improve in value, quality, desirability, or attractiveness
50. **Emphasize**: to place emphasis on : STRESS *emphasized the need for reform*
51. **Enlighten** : ILLUMINATE: to furnish knowledge to : INSTRUCT: to give spiritual insight to
52. **Enrich** : to make rich or richer especially by the addition or increase of some desirable quality or attribute *the experience will enrich your life*: to add beauty to : ADORN b : to enhance d : to improve
53. **Evoke**: to call forth or up : CONJURE *evoke evil spirits*: to cite especially with approval or for support : INVOKE: to bring to mind or recollection *this place evokes memories*: to recreate imaginatively
54. **Evolve**: EMIT: DERIVE, EDUCE: to produce by natural evolutionary processes: DEVELOP, WORK OUT
55. **Exceed**: to extend outside of *the river will exceed its banks*: to be greater than or superior to: to go beyond a limit set by *exceeded his authority*: OVERDO, SURPASS, TRANSCEND, EXCEL, OUTDO, OUTSTRIP mean to go or be beyond a stated or implied limit, measure, or degree. EXCEED implies going beyond a limit set by authority or established by custom or by prior achievement *exceed the speed limit*.
56. **Exclude**: to prevent or restrict the entrance of : to bar from participation, consideration, or inclusion: to expel or bar especially from a place or position previously occupied
57. **Exemplify (exemplifies)**: to show or illustrate by example : to make an attested copy or transcript of (a document) under seal: to be an instance of or serve as an example : EMBODY b : to be typical of
58. **Express**: DELINEATE, DEPICT b : to represent in words : STATE c : to give or convey a true impression of : SHOW, REFLECT d : to make known the opinions or feelings of (oneself) e : to give expression to the artistic or creative impulses or abilities of (oneself) f : to represent by a sign or symbol : SYMBOLIZE
59. **Highlight**: to center attention on, to ILLUMINATE, something of major importance.
60. **Identify** : to cause to be or become identical: to conceive as united (as in spirit, outlook, or principle) *groups that are identified with conservation*: to establish the identity of
61. **Illustrate**: a : ENLIGHTEN b : to light up : to make illustrious (1) : to make bright (2) : ADORN 3 a : to make clear : CLARIFY b : to make clear by giving or by serving as an example or instance c : to provide with visual features intended to explain or decorate *illustrate a book*4 : to show clearly : DEMONSTRATE: to give an example
62. **Imitate**: to follow as a pattern, model, or example: to be or appear like : RESEMBLE: to produce a copy of : REPRODUCE: MIMIC, COUNTERFEIT *can imitate his father's booming voice*: COPY
63. **Imply**: to involve or indicate by inference, association, or necessary consequence rather than by direct statement *rights imply obligations*: to contain potentially: to express indirectly *his silence implied consent*: SUGGEST
64. **Impress**: to produce a vivid impression of : to affect especially forcibly or deeply : INFLUENCE
65. **Influence**: the power or capacity of causing an effect in indirect or intangible ways : SWAY: to have an effect on the condition or development of : MODIFY: AFFECT

66. **Indicate:** to point out or point to: to be a sign, symptom, or index of *the high fever indicates a serious condition*: to demonstrate or suggest the necessity or advisability of *indicated the need for a new school*: to state or express briefly *indicated a desire to cooperate*
67. **Interact:** to act upon or among, to socialize.
68. **Interpret:** to explain or tell the meaning of : present in understandable terms: to represent by means of art : bring to realization by performance or direction *interprets a role*
69. **Intervene:** to occur, fall, or come between points of time or events: to come in or between by way of hindrance or modification *intervene to stop a fight*: to interfere usually by force or threat of force in another nation's internal affairs especially to compel or prevent an action: INTERPOSE
70. **Justify:** to prove or show to be just, right, or reasonable b (1) : to show to have had a sufficient legal reason (2) : to qualify (oneself)
71. **Maintain:** to keep in an existing state (as of repair, efficiency, or validity) : preserve from failure or decline *maintain machinery*: to sustain against opposition or danger : uphold and defend *maintain a position*: to continue or persevere in : CARRY ON, KEEP UP *couldn't maintain his composure*: to support or provide for *has a family to maintain* b : SUSTAIN *enough food to maintain life*
72. **Modify:** to make minor changes in: to make basic or fundamental changes in often to give a new orientation to or to serve a new end *the wing of a bird is an arm modified for flying*: to undergo change
73. **Motivate:** to cause to move, to drive someone to action, to spur someone on.
74. **Oblige:** to constrain by physical, moral, or legal force or by the exigencies of circumstance *obliged to find a job* : to put in one's debt by a favor or service *we are much obliged for your help*: to do a favor for *always ready to oblige a friend*
75. **Obtain:** to gain or attain usually by planned action or effort
76. **Oppose:** to place opposite or against something: to place over against something so as to provide resistance, counterbalance, or contrast: to offer resistance to: COMBAT, RESIST, WITHSTAND
77. **Participate:** to possess some of the attributes of a person, thing, or quality: to take part *always tried to participate in class discussions* b : to have a part or share in something: to SHARE
78. **Persecute:** to harass in a manner designed to injure, grieve, or afflict. To cause to suffer because of a belief.
79. **Perceive:** to attain awareness or understanding of: to regard as being such *perceived threats* *was perceived as a loser*: to become aware of through the senses: SEE, OBSERVE
80. **Perseverance/Persevere:** the action or condition or an instance of persevering: STEADFASTNESS. Persevere: to persist in a state, enterprise, or undertaking in spite of counterinfluences, opposition, or discouragement
81. **Ponder:** to weigh in the mind *pondered their chances of success*: to think about : reflect on *pondered the events of the day*: to think or consider especially quietly, soberly, and deeply
82. **Portray:** to make a picture of : DEPICT: to describe in words b : to play the role of : ENACT: to show
83. **Prevent:** to keep from happening or existing *steps to prevent war*: to hold or keep back : HINDER, STOP

84. **Prohibit:** to forbid by authority: to prevent from doing something: PRECLUDE: FORBID
85. **Project:** to devise in the mind : DESIGN: to plan, figure, or estimate for the future *project expenditures for the coming year*: to throw or cast forward : THRUST: to put or set forth : present for consideration: to attribute (one's own ideas, feelings, or characteristics) to other people or to objects *a nation is an entity on which one can project many of the worst of one's instincts
86. **Promote:** to advance in station, rank, or honor : RAISE: to advance (a student) from one grade to the next higher grade: to contribute to the growth or prosperity of : FURTHER *promote international understanding*: to help bring (as an enterprise) into being : LAUNCH:ADVANCE
87. **Rebel:** : opposing or taking arms against a government or ruler: DISOBEDIENT, REBELLIOUS
88. **Reconcile:** to restore to friendship or harmony *reconciled the factions* : SETTLE, RESOLVE *reconcile differences*
89. **Reflect:** to give back or exhibit as an image, likeness, or outline : MIRROR *the clouds were reflected in the water*: to bring or cast as a result *his attitude reflects little credit on his judgment*: to make manifest or apparent : SHOW *the pulse reflects the condition of the heart*: REALIZE, CONSIDER: to think quietly and calmly b : to express a thought or opinion resulting from reflection
90. **Reinforce:** to strengthen or increase by fresh additions *reinforce our troops* *were reinforcing their pitching staff*: to strengthen by additional assistance, material, or support: make stronger or more pronounced *reinforce levees* *reinforce ideas* : to encourage (a response) with a reinforcer: to seek or get reinforcements
91. **Render:** to transmit to another : DELIVER: GIVE UP, YIELD : to furnish for consideration, approval, or information: as (1) : to hand down (a legal judgment) (2) : to agree on and report (a verdict)(1) : GIVE BACK, RESTORE (2) : REFLECT, ECHO c : to give in acknowledgment of dependence or obligation : PAY: to do (a service) for another: MAKE : IMPART: DEPICT (2) : to give a performance of (3) : to produce a copy or version of *the documents are rendered in the original French* (4) : to execute the motions of *render a salute*: to direct the execution of : ADMINISTER
92. **Resolve:** to cause resolution of (a pathological state): to deal with successfully : clear up *resolve doubts* *resolve a dispute*: to find an answer to: to make clear or understandable: to find a mathematical solution of : to reach a firm decision about *resolve to get more sleep* *resolve disputed points in a text*: to work out the resolution of
93. **Restore:** GIVE BACK, RETURN: to put or bring back into existence or use : to bring back to or put back into a former or original state : RENEW
94. **Reveal:** to make known through divine inspiration: to make (something secret or hidden) publicly or generally known *reveal a secret*: to open up to view : DISPLAY *the uncurtained window revealed a cluttered room*DISCLOSE, DIVULGE, TELL
95. **Revolutionize:** to overthrow the established government: to change fundamentally or completely
96. **Significant/Signifies** : the quality of being important : Signify (signifies) - to be a sign of : MEAN: IMPLY: to show
97. **Simulate:** to give or assume the appearance or effect of often with the intent to deceive : IMITATE: to make a simulation of (as a physical system)

98. **Stimulate:** to excite to activity or growth or to greater activity : ANIMATE, AROUSE: PROVOKE
99. **Strengthen:** to make stronger
100. **Surpass:** to become better, greater, or stronger than : EXCEED: to go beyond : OVERSTEP: to transcend the reach, capacity, or powers of EXCEED
101. **Sustain:** to give support or relief to : to supply with sustenance : NOURISH : KEEP UP, PROLONG: to support the weight of : to carry or withstand (a weight or pressure): to buoy up *sustained by hope*: to bear up under: SUFFER, UNDERGO *sustained heavy losses* : to support as true, legal, or just: to allow or admit as valid *the court sustained the motion* : to support by adequate proof : CONFIRM
102. **Symbolize:** to serve as a symbol of: to represent, express, or identify by a symbol
103. **Transcend:** : to rise above or go beyond the limits of: to triumph over the negative or restrictive aspects of : OVERCOME: to be prior to, beyond, and above (the universe or material existence): to outstrip or outdo in some attribute, quality, or power: EXCEED
104. **Transform:** to change in composition or structure: to change the outward form or appearance of : to change in character or condition
105. **Transmit:** : to send or convey from one person or place to another: to cause or allow to spread
106. **Undermine:** to wash away supporting material from under: to subvert or weaken insidiously or secretly: WEAKEN
107. **Unify:** to make into a unit or a coherent whole : UNITE
108. **Utilize:** to make use of : turn to practical use or account
109. **Verify:** to confirm or substantiate in law by oath: to establish the truth, accuracy, or reality of: CONFIRM