

Capturing a Moment

A checklist for developing your writing

Carefully reread your work. Have you:

- Used at least one **simile**?
- Used at least one **metaphor**?
- Provided rich **sensory imagery**?
- Described **nouns** using **adjectives**?
- Described **verbs** using **adverbs**?
- Used **commas** to separate a **list of adjectives**?
- Used **capital letters** at the start of each sentence and for **proper nouns**?
- Used correct **spelling**?
- Used a consistent narrative perspective? (I.e., **first-person**, **second-person** or **third-person**)

The following are some tips for improving your work. Once you have addressed each item, tick the box and move on.

Here's what to do if you have:

- Re-used the same adjective. Use your thesaurus or the Word Wall to make sure your vocabulary is **varied**.
- Used a general adjective or verb (e.g., "nice", "good" or "walked"). Use your thesaurus or the Word Wall to locate a more **precise** word.
- Used a boring or clichéd description. Use your imagination to replace it with something more **creative and original**.
- Included any sentence fragments (e.g., "The sweet air."). **Add verb/s** to make it a complete sentence (e.g., "I sniffed the sweet air.")
- Used commas to separate two ideas (e.g., "I saw the children playing on the grass, there are also children in the sandpit.") Are the ideas linked together? Add a **conjunction** (such as and, but, yet, or). Are the ideas distinct? Add a **full stop**.
- Included any run-on sentences (such as sentences with too many conjunctions). Place a **full stop, question mark or exclamation mark** at the end of your first thought.
- Swapped between present and past tense. Look at the **suffixes** at the ends of your verbs (for instance: jumps, jumped, jumping). Check your use of **is/was** and **am/were**. Where can you make changes to make sure your use of tense is consistent?
- Told rather than shown what happened. Use imagery to 'paint a picture' of the scene. For instance, rather than saying, "Angela was scared", add detail such as "Angela's face went ashen. Her breathing came in ragged gasps."