Writing with Brush Strokes

When artists paint, they adjust not only the colors they use, but also the way they put the color on the canvas to create very different effects in their pictures. You can do the same. Using different kinds of structures in your sentences allows you as the writer to adjust the rhythm as well as the information of your sentences. Just by changing the way you put together your ideas, you can create a piece of art that is totally your own.

Instructions: Study each of the Brushstrokes that follow. Then, imitate the examples, creating your own sentences with Brushstrokes. Be sure to underline the brushstroke you are trying to add.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Brushstroke One: Painting with Participles (ING and ED verb phrases)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• <strong>Hissing, slithering, and coiling</strong>, the diamond scaled snakes attacked their prey.</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Melody froze, <strong>dripping with sweat, hoping with all her might</strong> that they wouldn’t hear the noise.</td>
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<tr>
<th>Brushstroke Two: Painting with Absolutes (Noun + ING word phrase)</th>
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<tr>
<td>• <strong>Claws digging, feet kicking</strong>, the cat climbed the tree.</td>
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<tr>
<td>• The mountain climber edged along the cliff, <strong>hands shaking, feet trembling</strong>.</td>
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<tr>
<td>• <strong>Feet trembling</strong> on the snow covered rocks, the mountain climber edged along the cliff.</td>
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Brushstroke Three: Painting with **Appositives** (a noun that adds a second image to a preceding noun)

- The raccoon, **a midnight scavenger**, enjoys eating turtle eggs.
- The waterfall, **a tilted pitcher**, poured the fresh pure spray into the creek.

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Brushstroke Four: Painting with **Adjectives Shifted Out of Order** (to amplify details of an image)

- The woman, **old and wrinkled**, smiled upon her newborn great-grandson with pride.
- And then, suddenly, in the very dead of the night, there came a sound to my ears, **clear, resonant, and unmistakable**.

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Brushstroke Five: Painting with **Vivid Action Verbs** (no room for wimpy verbs!)

- *Wimpy:* The grocery store *was* robbed by two armed men.
- ☹ Two armed men **robbed** the grocery store.
- *Wimpy:* The gravel road *was* on the left side of the barn.
- ☹ The gravel road **curled around** the left side of the barn.

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