RUBRIC FOR WORD CHOICE

	6	 Every word contributes to the main message. My verbs are powerful and give the writing energy and life. Sensory words and phrases paint a clear, vivid picture in the reader's mind.
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		● I got rid of any clutter. Every word counts.
strong	5	Most of my words and phrases are clear.
		● I used a lot of strong verbs.
		• I used sensory words to help paint pictures in the reader's mind.
		• I got rid of most clutter. I don't think it's a problem.
	4	My words are usually clear. The reader can figure out my main idea.
		I used some strong verbs. I guess I could use more.
		 Some of my words paint pictures. Some are vague or general.
Ì		 My writing has some clutter. I could cut some words or phrases.
_	3	My word choice is unclear in many places. The reader might guess my main idea.
		• I think I have some verbs, I am sure I need more.
		 The reader might be able to picture what I am taking about if he or she works at it.
		 My writing is cluttered. I used too many words. I did not need, or else my descriptions are too sketchy.
	2	My words are very unclear. I did not always know the meaning myself.
		● I do not know for sure whether I used verbs. I a not sure what a verb is.
_		 When I read this aloud, I think it's hard to picture what I am talking about.
		• I do not know for sure whether I used too many words or not enough words, I just wrote.
	1	• My words are hard to understand. They are vague – or I just guessed which word to use.
		• I do not know whether I used verbs. What is a verb?
		When I read this aloud, a lot of the words do not make sense to me.
		 Maybe I used too many words. Maybe I used the wrong words. I don't know.