**Precise Language: Showing vs. Telling**

Using strong verbs, precise nouns, and unique and explicit adjectives, create sentences that show the reader what you mean.

**Vague:** The food was unappetizing.

**Vivid:** The pale turkey slices floated limply in a pool of murky fat.

Avoiding the following words will help your sentences become more vivid:

- *Is, are, was, were, am, said*

- It was dark.
- I was scared.
- The place was scary.
- There was a noise.
- There it was.
What was quiet?
Where?
When?
Under what circumstances?

Snow falling on snow
quiet
A mortuary in the middle of the night