**General Guidelines for Writing Pattern Sentences**

* Use **SPECIFIC NOUNS** for **subjects**
  + No proper nouns as subjects; ALL subjects should be SPECIFIC NOUNS (see examples on page 2)
    - Instead of Camaro, use sport car
    - Instead of Sally, use catcher
  + No PRONOUNS as subjects (see pronoun list on page 2)
  + Use each subject noun only **once per pattern**.
  + Do not use the same subject nouns over and over, from pattern to pattern; **stretch your mind** and use new specific nouns. Pick a “theme” or “topic” and stick with it: TV show, novel characters, people from history, etc.
* Use **VIVID VERBS**
  + Use vivid ***action*** verbs
  + Linking verbs should not be used (see list on page 2)
    - Bad Example: My headache *was* bad. [NO! NO!]
    - Good Example: My headache *pounded* severely.
  + Any of the verbs from the helping verb list used alone are not considered to be vivid verbs (see list on page 2)
    - Bad Example: The police officer *had* a car. [NO! NO!]
    - Good Example: The police officer *maneuvered* his car through the streets.
  + **Stay away from** the “weasel word” verbs: **go, went, gone, said, say, got, get,** and **put.**
* Sentences should **follow the pattern correctly**, including *punctuation*.
* All words in the sentences should be **spelled** **correctly**.
* **Sentence Pattern Scoring**

Each individual sentence (written on your own) is worth 5 points. (Assignment=25 pts.)

* Using any verb not allowed= -5 points
* Using a pronoun for a subject= -5 points
* Incomplete sentence or not following the pattern= -5 points
* Incorrect or missing punctuation= -2 points per error
* Misspelled words= -1 point per misspelling
* **Specific Noun Examples**

*Common Noun*

woman

car

*Specific Noun*

**mother, teacher**

**sport car, police car**

*Proper Noun*

Mrs. Rubach

Camaro

* **Pronouns**

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  |  | **Nominative Case** | Objective Case | Possessive Case |
| 1st Person | Singular | **I** | me | my, mine |
| Plural | **we** | us | our, ours |
| 2nd Person | Singular | **you** | you | your, yours |
| Plural | **you** | you | your, yours |
| 3rd Person | Singular | **he, she, it** | him, her, it | his, her, hers, its |
| Plural | **they** | them | their, theirs |

* **Linking Verbs**

am is are was were

be being been

appear become feel grow

look remain seem smell

sound stand taste turn

* **Helping Verbs**

am is are was were

be being been

have has had

do does did

may might must

can could

shall should

will would

* **Weasel Words**

go, went, gone, said, say, got, get, and put