**Transforming Weak Verbs**

The benefits of strong verbs: They are specific. They are explicit. They better identify who/what is acting.

* **Find and replace all “to be” verbs (is, am, are, was, were, being, been) with stronger verbs that show action.**
* Ex: The tax policies of the current administration **are** sacrificing education for everyone.
* REPLACED BY: The tax policies of the current administration threaten to reduce the tax burden on the middle class by sacrificing education for everyone.

**Weak Verbs Strong Verbs**

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| --- | --- |
| Got, gotten, get, gets, gettingMake, makes, made, makingHave, having, hadSee, sees, saw, seeing, seenTake, takes, took, taking, takenPut, puts, puttingShow, shows, showed, showing, shownSay, says, said, saying | Acquire, collect, receive, purchase, obtain, find, earn, gather, learn, secure, gain, procureForce, manipulate, craft, move, convince, cause, generate, produce, accomplish, fabricate Own, possess, present, offer, propose, provide, display, suggest Observe, discover, inspect, perceive, detect, identify, witness, contemplate, determine, recognize, encounter, realize, understand Accept, collect, receive, seize, acquire, consume, transport, convey, understandPosition, insert, install, concentrate, offer, present, propose, express, placePresent, offer, display, demonstrate, exemplify, explain, indicate, clarify, evidence, proveProve, claim, argue, move, dispute, appeal, explain, suggest, establish, persuade, discuss, challenge, postulate, explore, respond, imply |

**Verbs to Strengthen Your Thesis Statement:**

Illuminate Clarify Deduce Associate Expose Condense Assess

Conclude Replicate Depict Reveal Maximize Promote Determine

Promote Conflict Illustrate Investigate Enhance Question Qualify

Associate Dominate Mobilize Scrutinize Expound Explore Categorize

Interpret Alter Problematize Explicate Highlight Obscure Typify

Criticize Evoke Identify Confirm Influence Embody Uncover

Simulate Contradict Expose Amplify Exemplify Justify Debate

Manipulate Challenge Transform Complicate Navigate Interrogate Confront

Construct Insist Distinguish Theorize Speculate Consider Initiate