

*Take-Home Quiz for*  
***“Show, Don’t Tell” & “Flex Those Muscles”***  
*By Barbara Westberg*

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I. Write TRUE or FALSE in the blanks provided.

- \_\_\_\_\_ 1) Good writing invites the reader into the scene and makes him to comfortable he is reluctant to leave.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 2) Ambiguous writing (not making the meaning clear) frustrated readers.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 3) The difference between ambiguous and good writing is to use showing, not telling.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 4) The “show, don’t tell” rule does not apply to most non-fiction.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 5) Writing in the narrative gives facts, but removes the emotion.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 6) Another way to show, not tell, is to replace adjectives with strong verbs.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 7) Adjectives tell. Strong verbs show.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 8) Adjectives add color and action to writing.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 9) Verbs are the muscles of writing.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 10) Strong adjectives develop powerful statements that lift, pull, push, and move the message.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 11) *Voice* is the term used to tell whether the subject is acting, or receiving the action.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 12) If the subject is the *doer* of the action, the voice is *active*.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 13) If the subject is the *receiver*, the voice is *passive*.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 14) Strong, active verbs stand alone (i.e. *raced, pushed, jumped*,).
- \_\_\_\_\_ 15) Strong verbs tighten the muscles and move the story.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 16) The “to be” verbs are important, but alone they are weak.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 17) The most common “to be” verbs are forms of *is, are, was, and were*.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 18) *Linking verbs* require another word or words to show action and/or make a statement about the subject.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 19) If you want to “show, don’t tell,” use active verbs.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 20) Often, one strong verb can replace several weak words.
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II. Rewrite each sentence below. Replace the weak verbs with a strong, active verb.

- 1) Weak verb – *The mother walked quickly into the room.*  
Strong verb \_\_\_\_\_
- 2) Weak verb – *Todd’s movements were very fast.*  
Strong verb \_\_\_\_\_
- 3) Weak verb – *The child cried weakly.*  
Strong verb \_\_\_\_\_
- 4) Weak verb – *The writer is disgusted with her slow, temperamental computer.*  
Strong verb \_\_\_\_\_
- 5) Weak verb – *The computer was repaired by the technician.*  
Strong verb \_\_\_\_\_
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