Name: Date: Section: Score:



Avoid Cliches Like the Plague



Replace the <u>cliches</u> in the paragraph below with language that is simple and precise.

When you write, avoid cliches <u>at all costs.</u> In fact, avoid them like the plague. Cliches are <u>ugly as</u> <u>sin</u> and creep into our writing because they are a <u>piece of cake</u> to use. If an expression or phrase <u>comes to mind</u> easily <u>hold your horses and think</u> is this a cliche? Is this an overused statement that I hear all the time? In our <u>plug and play culture</u> , we want writing to be easyor at least
efficient. <u>Time is money</u> , and we have <u>things to do and places to be</u> who wants to fumble around with words and stare at a screen? When <u>reality sets in</u> thoughand <u>the dust settles</u> , one thing is <u>crystal clear</u> : cliches are the enemy of good writing.

Possible Answer:

Avoid cliches when you write. If a phrase enters your mind easily, think: Is this a cliche? Is this a phrase I often hear? Writing well is rarely efficient, nor does it come easily. In a culture that values "busyness," writing can seem unproductive. However, to write clearly and simply, and to think for yourself-you must omit cliches. And this is often a slow and tedious task.