**To Be or Not To Be…Not to be**

One of the simplest things you can do to give imitate power to your writing is to eliminate to be verbs. Below is a list of those verbs.

**To be Was**

**Am Were**

**Are Been**

**Is Being**

In addition to eliminating all to be verbs we also want to avoid these verbs

**Has**

**Had**

**Have**

Lastly we want to replace all past tense verbs with present tense verbs. If the action took place in the story yesterday when you read it, that action will still take place today when you reread. That same action will also take place tomorrow, next week, next year. That action is present. So the verbs in your essay need to reflect that present action.

The goal is to replace these pesky verbs with *present tense action verbs*. Verbs that give action and life to your sentences. This will give life to your essay and at times mask some not so good writing.

Oh yeah…also get rid of the pronoun It. It tends to be confusing and can cause problems to a reader if they can’t identify who or what that It is.