TABOO WORD LIST:
The list of words below is for you to refer to with any formal, academic, English writing. You are forbidden to use these words when writing. Refer to this list as often as possible to become very familiar with the Taboo Words.

- a lot (or misspelled alot)
- like – used incorrectly (She was always like nice…)
- kind of, sort of (He was kind of tall…)
- bunch (a bunch of…)
- I, me, my, we, our, mine, myself, ourselves (1st person may only be used when required, such as autobiographical writing)
- lol, rofl, i, u, brb, OMG, TMI… (Instant messaging & texting language is NEVER permitted in academic writing, unless part of a quotation)
- this… (this guy…, this place…, this stranger…)
- could of, would of, should of (Incorrect usage. Correct: should have, would have, could have)
- you, your, yourself (NEVER speak directly to the reader unless giving directions)
- couldn’t, shouldn’t, wouldn’t, can’t, won’t, don’t, weren’t, isn’t (DO NOT use contractions – spell them out)
- Numbers 1-20 MUST be spelled out (seventeen, instead of 17)

really             bad
very               good
things, thing     etc.
stuff              fine
nice               weird
kid                mean
guy               totally
OK, okay           ’cuz (for because)
gross             pretty (“She’s pretty smart”)
awesome           get, got, getting, gotten
cool              great
maybe             might
may               perhaps

IDEA: Use the back of this paper to create your own “SUPERSTAR” word list. Make note of active verbs, sensory details (sight, sound, touch, taste, smell), descriptive adjectives, etc.