

Reading-Writing Connection

Expand your understanding of “Why Leaves Turn Color in the Fall” by responding to these prompts. Then use **Revision: Grammar and Style** to improve your writing.

WRITING PROMPTS	SELF-CHECK
<p>A. Short Response: Describe a Scene</p> <p>Think back to the scene from nature that you chose to describe on page 494. Now write one or two paragraphs that describe this same scene. Be sure to include sensory images, as Ackerman did, to help re-create the scene.</p>	<p>A successful description will . . .</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • focus on details that capture the beauty of the scene • include at least two images that appeal to the senses
<p>B. Extended Response: Analyze Author’s Message</p> <p>According to Diane Ackerman, what do autumn leaves tell humans about themselves? What does their beauty mean? Use details and examples from the essay to support your analysis of the author’s message.</p>	<p>A strong analysis will . . .</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • make a statement about the meaning of autumn leaves • support the statement with details from the essay



REVISION: GRAMMAR AND STYLE

ADD DESCRIPTIVE DETAILS Review the **Grammar and Style** note on page 500. Note how Ackerman uses participial phrases to create images of falling leaves.

A **participle** is a verb form (verbal) that acts as an adjective. It modifies a noun or a pronoun. A **participial phrase** consists of a participle plus its modifiers and complements. Here are some examples of how Ackerman uses participles and participial phrases to enrich her writing with imaginative details.

. . . they were always there, hidden like a vivid secret beneath the hot glowing greens of summer. (lines 32–33)

Children love to play in piles of leaves, hurling them into the air like confetti, leaping into soft unruly mattresses of them. (lines 80–81)

Notice how the revisions in red enliven this first draft by incorporating participles and participial phrases. Revise your responses to the prompts by making similar changes.

STUDENT MODEL

Deprived of the nutrients necessary to produce chlorophyll,
 Leaves begin to gradually change in the fall. The pigments anthocyanin
 and carotenoids produce a display of color as they turn the leaves deep red,
 blazing bright orange, and golden yellow.



SUNSHINE STATE STANDARD
Writing Process
Benchmark LA.910.3.4.5 Sentence formation, including absolutes and absolute phrases, infinitives and infinitive phrases, and use of fragments for effect.

WRITING TOOLS

For prewriting, revision, and editing tools, visit the **Writing Center** at **ClassZone.com**.