

Name _____

Date _____

Avoid Overused Language

Overused words and phrases, known as clichés, can weaken your writing and make it feel unoriginal. Readers may lose interest if they feel your ideas lack creativity or innovation. Similarly, excessive use of jargon (specialized language for a specific field) can confuse your audience and obscure your message.

To keep your readers engaged, it's important to choose diverse and descriptive words instead of repeating the same ones. Avoid relying on tired phrases like “better safe than sorry” or “needless to say.” Instead, use fresh, specific, and meaningful language to make your writing stand out.

Read the excerpt below. Underline the overused words and phrases that make the writing sound repetitive or unoriginal.

Bombs Away

In today's society, residents of the United States do not expect to find unexploded bombs. But believe it or not, finding bombs from World War II is a common occurrence in Germany. Talk about a blast from the past! On December 4, 2011, 45,000 people were evacuated from Koblenz, Germany, when two bombs were discovered in the Rhine River. The bombs were hidden for years until the water level of the river

Name _____

Date _____

Avoid Overused Language

dropped very low. Better to be safe than sorry, officials ordered half of the city's population to leave a two-mile radius around the bombs in case the bombs exploded. Some of the people in harm's way included patients in a hospital, residents in several senior citizen homes, and prisoners in a jail. Needless to say, such an evacuation was a massive undertaking. After days of research and preparation, it took experts only three hours to deactivate the bombs. Those brave people put themselves in harm's way to make the city safe again.

Replace the overused words and phrases with more specific and descriptive language. Make the sentences clearer and more engaging.

Name _____

Date _____

Avoid Overused Language – Answer Key

Overused words and phrases, known as clichés, can weaken your writing and make it feel unoriginal. Readers may lose interest if they feel your ideas lack creativity or innovation. Similarly, excessive use of jargon (specialized language for a specific field) can confuse your audience and obscure your message.

To keep your readers engaged, it's important to choose diverse and descriptive words instead of repeating the same ones. Avoid relying on tired phrases like “better safe than sorry” or “needless to say.” Instead, use fresh, specific, and meaningful language to make your writing stand out.

Read the excerpt below. Underline the overused words and phrases that make the writing sound repetitive or unoriginal.

Bombs Away

In today's society, residents of the United States do not expect to find unexploded bombs. But believe it or not, finding bombs from World War II is a common occurrence in Germany. Talk about a blast from the past! On December 4, 2011, 45,000 people were evacuated from Koblenz, Germany, when two bombs were discovered in the Rhine River. The bombs were hidden for years until the water level of the river

Name _____

Date _____

Avoid Overused Language – Answer Key

dropped very low. Better to be safe than sorry, officials ordered half of the city's population to leave a two-mile radius around the bombs in case the bombs exploded. Some of the people in harm's way included patients in a hospital, residents in several senior citizen homes, and prisoners in a jail. Needless to say, such an evacuation was a massive undertaking. After days of research and preparation, it took experts only three hours to deactivate the bombs. Those brave people put themselves in harm's way to make the city safe again.

Replace the overused words and phrases with more specific and descriptive language. Make the sentences clearer and more engaging.

Original: Believe it or not, finding bombs from World War II is a common occurrence in Germany.

Rewritten: Surprisingly, unexploded World War II bombs are still frequently discovered in Germany.

Original: Better to be safe than sorry, officials ordered half of the city's population to leave.

Rewritten: To ensure the safety of all residents, officials mandated the evacuation of half the city's population.