When Writing a Theme, Remember

Words, he said. Use words
Straightforward, simple. Verbs,
He said. The tenses please
Must be correct. And these
Cliches. How often must I say
Avoid cliche?
Spelling, please check it.
Obtuseness will wreck it.
Proper transition
Improves its condition.
Semicolon, dash and comma
In good order improve the drama.
The comedy is sad,
Not thoroughly bad.
The psychology
Resembles more, biology.
The ending is weak.
It's too meek.
Take it out of my sight.
It's trite.
Rewrite!

—Betty Van Derbilt