Four Online Tools for writing:

1. Wordcounter

http://www.wordcounter.com/

"Wordcounter ranks the most frequently used words in any given body of text. Use this to see what words you overuse (is everything a "solution" for you?) or maybe just to find some keywords from a document.

Wordcounter is useful for writers, editors, students, and anyone who thinks that they might be speaking redundantly or repetitively -- and it's free!"

2. Hemingway App

http://www.hemingwayapp.com/

"Hemingway App makes your writing bold and clear.

The app highlights long, complex sentences and common errors; if you see a yellow sentence, shorten or split it. If you see a red highlight, your sentence is so dense and complicated that your readers will get lost trying to follow its meandering, splitting logic — try editing this sentence to remove the red.

You can utilize a shorter word in place of a purple one. Mouse over it for hints.

Adverbs are helpfully shown in blue. Get rid of them and pick verbs with force instead.

Phrases in green have been marked to show passive voice."

3. Power Thesaurus

https://www.powerthesaurus.org/

Lots of choices! It has 832 replacements for describe.

4. Grammark

http://grammark.org/dist/#/

"Grammark helps improve writing style & grammar and teaches students to self-edit. Basically, it finds things that grammarians consider bad, highlights them, and suggests improvements. So writers can measure progress, it gives a "score" based on problems per document length, updated whenever the writer fixes a problem.

Since not all writing forms are equal, users can customize each element that Grammark checks. It works best for college-level essays. It doesn't improve content. And it's not much use for creative writing, since literature often breaks rules for aesthetic effect. These are the basic premises the program follows, in plain language:

1. **Passive voice** is harder to read and sometimes obscures meaning. Active voice is clearer and punchier. Grammark highlights all instances of passive voice and suggests how to rewrite them actively.
2. **Wordiness**. Don't use 3 words when you can say the same thing with 1. Grammark has a database of 973 wordy phrases, like *with respect to*, *a considerable amount of*, and *as a matter of fact*. It finds these and offers concise alternatives (*concerning, many, in fact*).
3. **Sentence length** correlates with sophistication of thought. Writing with many short sentences is usually simplistic, while preponderantly long sentences suggest convoluted thought, and if sentences are all about the same length, writing sounds soporific. Grammark provides a sentence variety score (using standard deviation) and average words per sentence.
4. **Transitions** help organize ideas. Text with few transitions is hard to follow. Based on analysis, writing that has less than 1 transition per every 4 sentences may be confusing. Grammark checks your document for 188 common transition words.
5. **Academic Style**. As a college writing teacher, I often find myself scribbling "*be more specific*" or "be more tentative" on student essays. Grammark checks your document against for casual or extreme language.
6. **Nominalizations**. Non-root form words (e.g., *improvement* or *improving* instead of *improve*), when overused, can bog down writing. Grammark highlights words with common nominalized endings ("-ization", "-ability", etc.) so you can pinpoint unnecessarily dense sentences.
7. **Grammar** is, quite simply, a bunch of rules writers follow. As a teacher, I've spent many a Saturday correcting grammar. Grammark searches for 6,239 errors in about 0.144 seconds.

There are many more rules of grammar thumb: prepositions at the ends of phrases should be dealt with, to usually avoid split infinitives, and following parallel structure. But many of these have exceptions, and I felt including checks for them would make the tool less efficient and consequently less useful."