

Improving Your Style

Sentence Openers

Problems

Redundancy

“There is/are”; “It is”

Subject-verb...subj.-verb

He...He...He...

Solutions

Variety

Elimination, if possible

Subordinate clauses

Transitional expressions

Inversion

Combining; varying

Verbs

Problems

Is, was, are—to be verbs

Few action verbs

Solutions

Strive to eliminate

Turn a word in sentence into verb

Sentence length

Vary sentence length

Create at least one long sentence: Adds depth, complexity, eloquence

Create at least one short sentence: Adds emphasis, force, power

Special Features

Powerful word choice

Rhythm

Punctuation (: ; —)

Metaphor, simile

Strong verbs

Balance

Sound effects

Personification

Repetition

Parallelism

Imagery