

## Revising sentences for clarity exercise

Choose a four-paragraph passage of *your own* scientific writing—part of a paper or proposal, or a description of your work for a website, or the introduction to your thesis—any type of document will work.

Revise using the five steps outlined in the lesson:

- 1) Underline or highlight the forms of “is”—are, is, was, were, be, being, been
- 2) For any sentence containing an “is,” find the action
- 3) Identify the actor for that action
- 4) Put the action in the verb and make the actor the subject
- 5) Boil it down.

Reflect upon your revision:

- 1) How difficult or easy was the revision? Which step was most difficult? Why do you think this was more difficult than the others?
- 2) How would you change the process if you were to do this again on other pieces of writing? Why would you make these changes?
- 3) How does the revision compare to the original? How much easier or harder to read is it? Why? What additional changes would you make to reach a final version?
- 4) How did this revision exercise affect your understanding of your writing style? How do you think you could change the way you draft so that your sentences will need less revision in the future?

Turn in:

- A) The original draft
- B) The revision

The answers to the reflection questions