

Actions

Telling Stories About Characters & Their Actions

☞ Once upon a time, as a walk through the woods was taking place on the part of Little Red Riding Hood, the Wolf's jump out from behind a tree occurred, causing fright in Little Red Riding Hood.



Telling Stories About Characters & Their Actions

☞ Once upon a time, Little Red Riding Hood was walking through the woods, when the Wolf jumped out from behind a tree and frightened her.



1st Principle of Clarity: Make Main Characters Subjects

∞ Once upon a time, as a **walk** through the woods was taking place on the part of *Little Red Riding Hood*, the *Wolf's* **jump** out from behind a tree occurred, causing fright in Little Red Riding Hood.



1st Principle of Clarity: Make Main Characters Subjects

☞ Once upon a time, *Little Red Riding Hood* was walking through the woods, when the *Wolf* jumped out from behind a tree and frightened her.



2nd Principle of Clarity: Make Important Actions Verbs

∞ Once upon a time, as a **walk** through the woods was taking place on the part of Little Red Riding Hood, the Wolf's **jump** out from behind a tree occurred, causing **fright** in Little Red Riding Hood.



2nd Principle of Clarity: Make Important Actions Verbs

☞ Once upon a time, Little Red Riding Hood was walking through the woods, when the Wolf jumped out from behind a tree and frightened her.



Fairy Tales and Academic Writing

- ~ The Federalists' argument in regard to the destabilization of government by popular democracy was based on their belief in the tendency of factions to further their self-interest at the expense of the common good.



Fairy Tales and Academic Writing

- ≈ The Federalists argued that popular democracy destabilized government, because they believed that factions tended to further their self-interest at the expense of the common good.



1st Principle of Clarity: Make Main Characters Subjects

∞ The *Federalists*' **argument** in regard to the destabilization of government by *popular democracy* was based on *their* belief in the tendency of *factions* to further *their* self-interest at the expense of the common good.



1st Principle of Clarity: Make Main Characters Subjects

∞ The *Federalists* argued that *popular democracy* destabilized government, because *they* believed that *factions* tended to further *their* self-interest at the expense of the common good.



2nd Principle of Clarity: Make Important Actions Verbs

- ∞ The Federalists' **argument** in regard to the **destabilization** of government by popular democracy was based on their **belief** in the **tendency** of factions to further their self-interest at the expense of the common good.



2nd Principle of Clarity: Make Important Actions Verbs

- ∞ The Federalists argued that popular democracy destabilized government, because they believed that factions tended to further their self-interest at the expense of the common good.



Nominalizations

≈ nominalization:

a verb or adjective converted
into a noun.



Nominalizations

VERB \Rightarrow NOMINALIZATION

∞ discover \Rightarrow discovery

∞ resist \Rightarrow resistance

∞ react \Rightarrow reaction



Nominalizations

ADJECTIVE \Rightarrow NOMINALIZATION

≈ careless \Rightarrow carelessness

≈ different \Rightarrow difference

≈ proficient \Rightarrow proficiency



Diagnosis and Revision

Diagnose

- ∞ Ignoring short (4 or 5 word) introductory phrases, underline the first 7 or 8 words in each sentence.
- ∞ Look for two things:
 - abstract nouns as simple subjects.
 - more than 6 or 7 words before the main verb



Diagnosis and Revision

Analyze

- ∞ Identify the main characters, particularly flesh-and-blood characters.
- ∞ Look for actions that those characters perform, especially in nominalizations.



Diagnosis and Revision

Revise

- ☞ If you find actions in nominalizations, change them into verbs.
- ☞ Make the characters the subjects of those verbs.
- ☞ Rewrite the sentence with conjunctions like *because, if, when, although, why, how, whether, or that*.



Diagnosis and Revision

Diagnosis: Underline the first 7 or 8 words

∞ The outsourcing of high-tech work to Asia by corporations means the loss of jobs for many American workers.



Diagnosis and Revision

Analyze: Who are the *characters* and what are their **actions**?

∞ The **outsourcing** of high-tech work to Asia by *corporations* means the **loss** of jobs for many *American workers*.



Diagnosis and Revision

Revise: Turn the **actions** into verbs and make the *characters* subjects.

∞ Many *American workers* **are losing** their jobs because *corporations* **are outsourcing** high-tech work to Asia.



