- 1. What is a nominalization?
- a. An abstract noun
- b. A noun formed from other parts of speech
- c. Words such as impairment, differentiation, tolerance, and incorporation
- d. All of these are true
- 2. When is the passive voice preferred?
- a. When the agent is known
- b. When the agent is not obvious
- c. To emphasize the noun and de-emphasize the agent
- d. To emphasize the agent and de-emphasize the noun
- 3. What are some good ways to shorten and improve your text?
- a. Omit words that serve as hedges
- b. Remove material that is not relevant to the story
- c. Cut unnecessary words and phrases
- d. All of these are good tactics
- 4. What is the problem in the following sentence? "Beginning in the next section, we will present an update on what is known about genetic risk factors for osteoporosis."
- a. Keep sentences short and with one idea
- b. Nominalizations/use active voice/verbs
- c. Metadiscourse and overview sentences
- d. Statements of the obvious/unnecessary explanation
- e. Unnecessary words and phrases
- 5. What is the problem in the following sentence? "To differentiate the frequency dependency of the correlation, we calculated the magnitude-squared coherence between oxygen and BLP, as well as the coherence between oxygen and respiratory rate."
- a. Statements of the obvious/unnecessary explanation
- b. As well as
- c. Has beens
- d. Inclusion of irrelevant material
- e. Weasel words/Equivocation
- 6. What is the problem in the following sentence? "The CPA protein is almost universally conserved but differs in amino acid sequence between different taxa, especially in the N-terminal tail."
- a. Keep sentences short and with one idea
- b. Nominalizations/use active voice/verbs
- c. Has beens
- d. Inclusion of irrelevant material
- e. Weasel words/Equivocation

- 7. What is the problem in the following sentence? "The alteration of dopamine transmission is frequently associated with various pathological impairments of motivation. "
- a. Keep sentences short and with one idea
- b. Nominalizations/use active voice/verbs
- c. Metadiscourse and overview sentences
- d. Inclusion of irrelevant material
- e. Weasel words/Equivocation
- 8. What is the problem in the following sentence? "The western blot results obtained in this study were consistent with fluorescent images of worms that expressed GFP."
- a. Keep sentences short and with one idea
- b. Nominalizations/use active voice/verbs
- c. Statements of the obvious/unnecessary explanation
- d. Unnecessary words or phrases
- e. Weasel words/Equivocation
- 9. What is the problem in the following sentence? "Increasing temperatures have been reported to prolong growing season lengths, metabolic rates, and the productivity and distribution of vegetation at the Plateau and high latitude areas."
- a. Keep sentences short and with one idea
- b. Unnecessary complexity, wordiness, circumlocution
- c. As well as
- d. Has beens
- e. Inclusion of irrelevant material
- 10. What is the problem in the following sentence? "Although the notion of transferring an entire biosynthetic gene cluster (BGC) between plant species via genetic engineering is enticing, this is likely to be technically challenging because BGCs typically range from tens to several hundred kilobases in size, and the endogenous promoters controlling gene expression would not necessarily drive sufficient or appropriate expression in the heterologous host (although interestingly, the oat avenacin pathway promoters retain their root meristem expression patterns in heterologous plant species, including both monocots and eudicots)."
- a. Keep sentences short and with one idea
- b. Nominalizations/use active voice/verbs
- c. Statements of the obvious/unnecessary explanation
- d. Unnecessary words and phrases
- e. Weasel words/Equivocation

Answer Key:

- 1. D
- 2. C
- 3. D
- 4. C
- 5. B
- 6. E
- 7. B
- 8. D
- 9. D
- 10. A