



WORKSHEET FOR BEING CONCISE

LEARNING OUTCOMES: RECOGNIZE COMMON WRITING PROBLEMS
THAT ADD LENGTH, EDIT TO ACHIEVE CONCISENESS

FOR THE FOLLOWING SENTENCES, IDENTIFY AND NAME THE WRITING PROBLEM,
AND REVISE THE SENTENCE TO MAKE IT BETTER.

Although activation of the UPRmt has been linked to life span extension, the transcriptional function of ATFS-1 alone is insufficient for life prolongation.

Relevant to this lesson, there are several nominalizations in this sentence that could be rewritten. "Although activating the UPRmt has been linked to extending life span, the transcriptional function of ATFS-1 alone is insufficient to prolong life." It is only one word shorter, but has higher readability.

Portions of this dataset have been published previously [ref]. In this previous report, we found that locomotion significantly and globally increases cerebral oxygenation, in brain regions involved in locomotion, as well as in the FC and the olfactory bulb.

Together, these sentences have unnecessary text that can be cut if the reference location is moved. It also has an 'as well as' that could be replaced with 'and', with some edits to comma use. "Previously, we found that locomotion significantly and globally increases cerebral oxygenation in brain regions involved in locomotion, in the FC, and in the olfactory bulb [ref]. From 39 words to 26 words.



In human cadaver femurs, cortical bone has been reported to be the main determinant of the femoral neck bone strength, while trabecular bone only contributes marginally to bone strength at this site.

In the first independent clause the verb is past perfect progressive (has been reported to be), yet in the second independent clause the verb is in simple present tense (contributes). As such, the sentence does not have parallel structure. "In human cadaver femurs, cortical bone is the main determinant of the femoral neck bone strength, while trabecular bone only contributes marginally to bone strength at this site." From 32 words to 28 words.

PROTACs can discriminate amongst highly homologous targets, and can exhibit much greater potencies than expected, due to a catalytic mechanism of action, which can compensate for low binary binding affinities or poor cellular permeability, and allow for use of weak, non-functional inhibitors to serve as warhead ligands.

This sentence has more than one idea and is too long. Breaking it into three sentences allows the sentence length to go from 47 words to 7, 16, and 26 words. "PROTACs can discriminate amongst highly homologous targets. They can also exhibit much greater potencies than expected, due to a catalytic mechanism of action. This mechanism can compensate for low binary binding affinities or poor cellular permeability, and allow for use of weak, non-functional inhibitors to serve as warhead ligands."

The number of infectious individuals who would attend the gathering in the absence of a pre-gathering test were counted as well as the number of individuals who would attend the event given a pre-gathering test.

This sentence uses 'as well as' as a conjunction for similar, parallel ideas. Replacing it with 'and' and using a single verb for both clauses at the beginning of the sentence simplified it and made it 2 words shorter. "We counted the number of infectious individuals who would attend the gathering in the absence of a pre-gathering test and the number of individuals who would attend the event given a pre-gathering test."



This difference probably results from the fact that IESs with low excision efficiency might be more deleterious, and therefore could be more strongly counterselected, in genes than in intergenic regions.

This sentence has three instances of hedges (weasel words) that could be removed. It also has a wordy phrase (results from the fact that) that can be reworded. "This difference is because IESs with low excision efficiency are more deleterious, and therefore are more strongly counterselected, in genes than in intergenic regions." From 30 words to 24 words.

The accumulation of amyloidogenic proteins in different regions of the brain is perhaps a hallmark of neurodegenerative diseases apparently leading to cellular dysfunction, loss of synaptic communication, and deficits in specific brain functions.

Two weasel words and a nominalization. Amyloidogenic proteins accumulating in different regions of the brain is a hallmark of neurodegenerative diseases leading to cellular dysfunction, loss of synaptic communication, and deficits in specific brain functions. 33 to 29 words.

PUTTING IT ALL TOGETHER

THE FOLLOWING SENTENCES OR PARAGRAPHS HAVE MULTIPLE WRITING PROBLEMS. YOU WILL NEED TO USE IDEAS FROM SEVERAL OF THE LESSONS FROM THIS COURSE TO CORRECT THEM. IDENTIFY THE WRITING PROBLEMS, AND REVISE THE TEXT TO MAKE IT BETTER.

Previously, we and others have demonstrated that yeast might use the same pathway to regulate vacuole membrane proteins.

Change past perfect tense to simple past tense, remove weasel word. The sentence also has an incomplete comparison that needs to be finished (same pathway as what?). "Previously, we and others demonstrated that yeast use the same pathway to regulate vacuole membrane proteins."



Over the last decade, the novel CRISPR-associated endonuclease Cas9 protein has been used for therapeutic and analytical approaches in a vast spectrum of cell types and animal model. Thanks this method, the genes editing has become as simple, fast, and economical as never before.

Extra word (protein in inherent in endonuclease), abstract nouns (therapeutic and analytical approaches), plural problem with noun (model), missing word (Thanks to), unnecessary article (the gene editing), plural problem with noun (genes), choice of wording in phrase (as simple, fast, and economical as never before). "Over the last decade, the novel CRISPR-associated endonuclease Cas9 has been used for therapy and in analyzing a vast spectrum of cell types and animal models. Thanks to this method, gene editing has become more simple, fast, and economical than ever before."

This is challenging especially when fast changes occur and require adoption of new features, either metabolic, developmental, behavioral, physiological or morphological providing an enhanced fitness, through the process of adaptation.

This alone, missing comma before especially, word choice (rapid is better than fast), word choice (either is used when there are two options), word form, unnecessary article for uncountable noun (fitness), misplaced modifier. "The process of adaptation is challenging, especially when rapid changes occur and require adoption of new features, such as in metabolism, development, behavior, physiology or morphology, to provide enhanced fitness."

Compounds produced by BGCs have also been shown to have other roles in interactions between plants and the environment, such as modulation of the root microbiome, although the consequences of this for plant growth and fitness are not yet known.

More than one idea per sentence, has beens, nominalization, 'however' seemed like a better choice than 'although', it was not clear whether 'this' alone referred to interactions or modulation. "Compounds produced by BGCs also have other roles in interactions between plants and the environment, such as modulating the root microbiome. However, the consequences of these interactions in terms of plant growth and fitness are not known."

Thus, the intermittent flow and stalling of red blood cells could contribute to fluctuations in oxygenation on the time scale of seconds to minutes, as well as potentially driving neurodegenerative diseases.

Weasel words (could, potentially), nominalization (fluctuations, oxygenation), as well as. "Thus, the intermittent flow and stalling of red blood cells contributes to fluctuating oxygen levels on the time scale of seconds to minutes and drives neurodegenerative diseases."

However, until now prerequisites and regulation of heterotrophic nitrogen fixation as well as principle contradictions as fixation in oxygenated waters and at high nitrate and ammonium concentrations have been poorly understood, and should move into the focus of upcoming studies.

Missing commas, unnecessary phrase (until now), missing word (for, such), as well as, have been, word choice (move into). "However, prerequisites for and regulation of heterotrophic nitrogen fixation, and principle contradictions such as fixation in oxygenated waters and at high nitrate and ammonium concentrations, are poorly understood, and should be the focus of upcoming studies."

To interpret and manipulate the nature's biological defined processes successful for clinical applications, detailed and accurate assays in genes expression patterns and modulatory mechanism are a critical fundamental knowledge that if not properly defined will continue to generate more questions than answers.

Unnecessary articles (the, a), unnecessary word (defined), word placement (for), word choice (in), plural problems (genes, mechanism), colloquialism (generate more questions than answers). "To interpret and manipulate nature's biological processes for successful clinical applications, detailed and accurate assays of gene expression patterns and modulatory mechanisms are critical fundamental knowledge that must be properly defined."



When studying the effect of a magnetic field of different strengths it was found that the removal of copper cations from sulfate solutions proceeds most efficiently in the initial period of 1–5 hours.

Overview phrase with unnecessary explanation, passive/undefined agent (it was found), abstract noun made from verb (the removal of). "Copper cations were removed from sulfate solutions most efficiently in the initial period of 1–5 hours in a magnetic field of different strengths."