

Agents and Active Verbs

1. **Look at the first six or seven words in the following sentences, then revise them so that each has a specific character as a subject of a specific verb. You may have to invent characters. So use *we*, *I*, or any other word that seems appropriate.**

1. In recent years, the appearance of new interpretations about the meaning of the discovery of America has led to a reassessment of Columbus' place in Western history.
2. Decisions about forcibly administering medication in an emergency room setting despite the inability of an irrational patient to provide legal consent is usually an on-scene medical decision.
3. Tracing the transitions in a book or a well-written article will provide help in efforts at improving coherence in writing.
4. Resistance has been growing against building mental health facilities in residential areas because of a belief that the few examples of improper management are typical.
5. With the decline in network television viewing in favor of cable and DVDs, awareness is growing at the networks of a need to revise programming.

2. Change all the passive verbs into active verbs:

1. Independence is gained by those on welfare when skills are learned that the marketplace values.
2. Different planes of the painting are immediately noticed, because their colors are set against a background of subtle shades of gray that are laid on in thin layers that cannot be seen unless the surface is examined closely.
3. In this article, it is argued that the Vietnam War was fought to extend influence in Southeast Asia and was not ended until it was made clear that the United States could not defeat North Vietnam unless atomic weapons were used.
4. Science education cannot be improved to a level sufficient to ensure that American industry will be supplied with skilled workers and researchers until more money is provided to primary and secondary schools.
5. The tone in the first part of Bierce's "an Occurrence at Owl Creek Bridge" is presented in a dispassionate way. In the first paragraph, two sentinels are described in

detail, but the line “It did not appear to be the duty of these two men to know what was occurring at the center of the bridge” takes emotion away from them. In paragraph two, a description is given of the surroundings and spectators, but no feeling is betrayed because the language used is neutral and unemotional. This entire section is presented as devoid of emotion even though it is filled with details.

3. Change the passive verbs into active verbs, eliminating metadiscourse and also revising nominalizations into verbs where appropriate:

1. It is believed that a lack of understanding about the risks of alcohol is a cause of student bingeing.
2. The model has been subjected to extensive statistical analysis.
3. Success in exporting more crude oil for hard currency is suggested here as the cause of the improvement of the Russian economy.
4. The creation of a database is being considered, but no estimate has been made in regard to the potential of its usefulness.

5. Change passive verbs to active verbs and edit nominalizations into a more direct character-action style, inventing characters where necessary.

1. It is my belief that the social significance of smoking receives its clearest explication through an analysis of peer interaction among adolescents. In particular, studies should be made of the manner in which interactive behavior is conditioned by social class.
2. These directives are written in a style of maximum simplicity as a result of an attempt at more effective communication with employees with limited reading skills.
3. The ability of the human brain to arrive at solutions of human problems has been undervalued, because studies have not been done that would be considered to have scientific reliability.

4. Unpack the compound noun phrases in the following sentences:

1. The plant safety standards committee discussed recent EPA air quality regulation announcements.
2. Diabetic patient blood pressure reduction may be brought about by renal depressor medication.

3. The main goal of this article is to describe text comprehension processes and recall protocol production.
4. On the basis of these principles, we may now attempt to formulate narrative information extraction rules.

5. In the next sentences, unpack compound nouns and revise nominalizations:

1. this paper is an investigation into information processing behavior involved in computer human cognition behavior.
2. Enforcement of guidelines for new automobile tire durability must be a Federal Trade Commission responsibility.
3. The Social Security program is a monthly income floor guarantee based on a lifelong contribution schedule.
4. Based on training needs assessment reviews and on office site visits, there was the identification of concepts and issues that can be used in our creation of an initial staff questionnaire instrument.