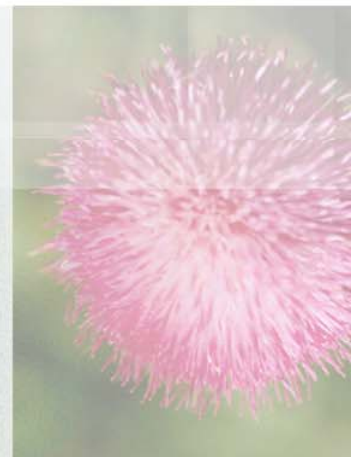




Sentence Clarity & Variety

“Faith and knowledge resting on the hope of eternal life” (*NIV*, Titus 1.2).

Writing Center Presentation
Dr. Karen Lee, M.F.A., Ph.D.





Strategies for Creating Sentence Clarity & Variety

- **Conciseness**
- **Sentence Combining**
- **Emphasis**
- **Parallelism**





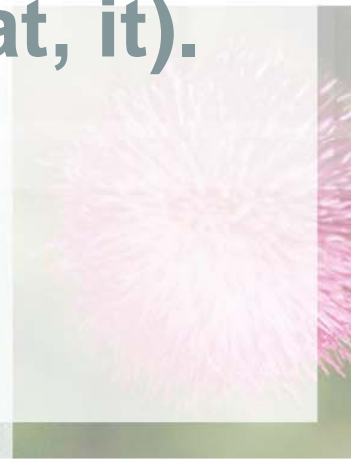
Conciseness



How to Create Conciseness



- **Omit unnecessary words.**
- **Eliminate inappropriate diction for a more academic tone.**
- **Get rid of repetition.**
- **Revise to omit extra prepositions (on, of, for), conjunctions (and, or), and pronouns (they, that, it).**



Unnecessary Repetition



The Committee for the Reduction of Redundancy and the Antiproliferation of Repetition has decided not to meet until they have their first meeting and thus will not be meeting until the first time.

Their Pre-meeting Statement wanted to make this clear before they had their first meeting, so that it would not be more confusing.

So their first meeting will actually be their first meeting and they will not have a meeting before the first meeting.

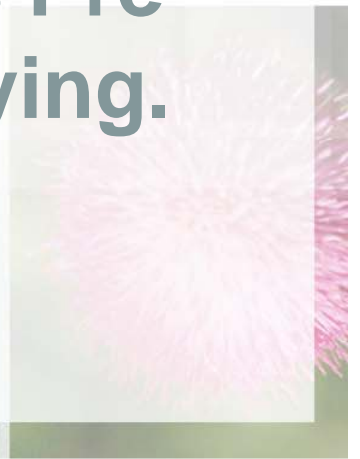
This should avoid having people show up for their first meeting before it is held, since to do so would be confusing to those who did so and this is what they want to avoid by reducing the confusion and lessening the repetition.

“Stop Redundancy.” 30 November 2005.
<<http://www.ahajokes.com>>

Conciseness



- **Example: Their Pre-meeting Statement wanted to make this clear before they had their first meeting, so that it would not be more confusing.**
- **Revision: The Committee's Pre-meeting Statement is clarifying.**



Conciseness



- **Example:** The Committee for the Reduction of Redundancy and the Antiproliferation of Repetition has decided not to meet until they have their first meeting and thus will not be meeting until the first time.
- **Revision:** The two committees plan to meet for the first time.

Now You Try it!



Revise the following for conciseness.

- **So their first meeting will actually be their first meeting and they will not have a meeting before the first meeting.**





Sentence Combining



Sentence Combining



**Combine short, choppy sentences
by using connectors:**

**Example: I am praying. At the
same time, I am singing.**

Revision: I pray while singing.



Sentence Combining



Now You Try It! Combine the following sentences using the suggestions shown in parentheses.

- 1. You can be praying in church or in your closet. God hears you when you pray aloud or silently. (Whether)**
- 2. Jesus teaches us about prayer. Jesus teaches us how to pray in the Father's name with sincerity and simplicity. (Use adverbs)**



Emphasis



Using Proper Emphasis



Ordering the parts of your sentence to stress ideas and chronology is called hierarchizing.

Out of Order: When baking chocolate chip cookies, remember to add baking soda, cream the batter until smooth, and add beaten eggs, not to forget the flour, which is the basic ingredient.

In order: When baking chocolate chip cookies, add beaten eggs and baking soda to the creamed batter before adding flour, the primary ingredient.



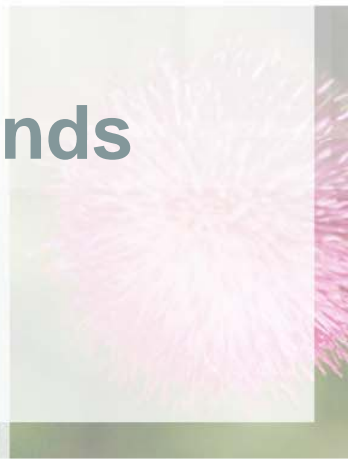
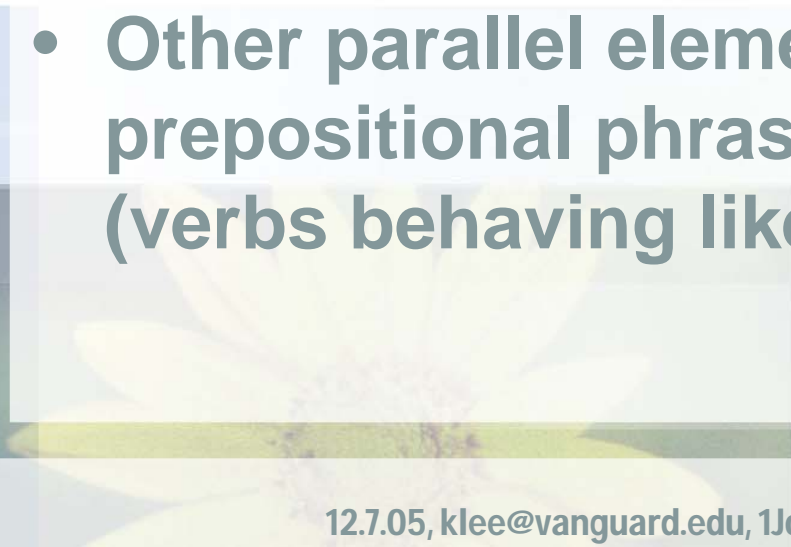
Parallelism



Parallelism



- The grammatical elements in a sentence should be parallel or equal. This structure is called parallelism.
- Parallel grammatical elements are most commonly nouns and verbs.
- Other parallel elements include prepositional phrases and gerunds (verbs behaving like nouns).



Parallelism



- Example of Parallelism (Nouns):

You like roses, tulips, and begonias.

- Example of Parallelism (Verbs):

I am reading, writing, and singing.

Other Examples of Parallelism

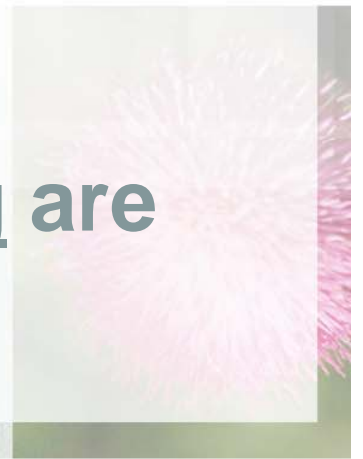


- Parallel Prepositional Phrases:

You jumped over the roses, near the tulips, and far from the begonias.

- Parallel Gerunds (verbs behaving like nouns):

Reading, writing, and singing are fun activities.



Now You Try It!



Revise the following for sentence clarity and variety.

- **Purple crocuses are the first flowers to bloom in the spring and they are small but really vivid. Their pollen is where saffron comes from. Saffron is used as a dye.**



One Possible Revision



The first spring flowers to bloom, purple crocuses are small but vivid. Their pollen is a source of dye called saffron.





More Exercises

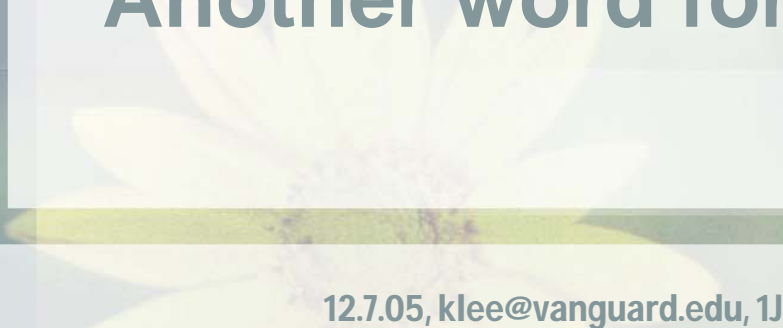
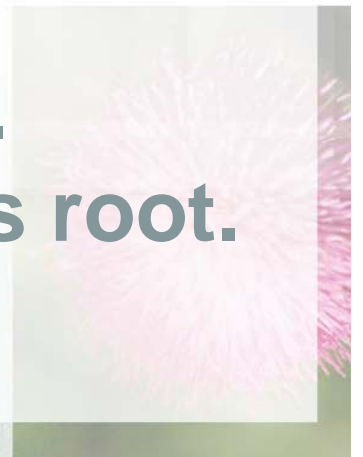


Now You Try It!



Revise the following for sentence clarity and variety.

Saffron and turmeric are both yellow dyes and seasonings that are used in cooking food. Saffron is actually crocus pollen. Turmeric is from a rhizome. Another word for rhizome is root.



One Possible Revision



Both yellow dyes and food seasonings, saffron is crocus pollen whereas turmeric is obtained from a rhizome or root.



Summary



To revise your sentences for clarity and variety, keep in mind the following:

- **Omit unnecessary words and repetition.**
- **Combine short, choppy sentences.**
- **Hierarchize sentence elements for emphasis, logical flow, and parallelism when necessary.**

Final Thoughts



The Writing Center

For more help with sentence revision, contact the Writing Center.

Where: Heath 214

What else: Thanks for your interest in our presentation!

“Faith and knowledge resting on the hope of eternal life” (NIV, Titus 1.2).

