

sentence structure variation

To avoid monotony or repetition sentences need to be more varied. There are different ways of varying sentences in order to effectively engage readers with your texts. Here are some helpful tips and tricks:

Vary Sentence Lengths

If all of your sentences within a paragraph are of equal length they might tire readers leaving them uninterested and bored. Thus, by changing the rhythm from long to short or from short to long, respectively, you can invigorate your paragraphs adding extra emphasis, e.g.:

The company reported that yearly profit growth, which had steadily increased by more than 7% since 1989, had stabilized in 2009 with a 0% comp, and in 2010, the year they launched the OWN project, actually decreased from the previous year by 2%. This announcement stunned Wall Street analysts, but with the overall decrease in similar company profit growth worldwide, as reported by Author (Year) in his article detailing the company's history, the company's announcement aligns with industry trends and future industry predictions.

Problem: It is difficult to find the general subject of the paragraph due to no clear emphasis.

In 2010, the company's yearly profit growth decreased from the previous year by 2%. This was the year they launched the OWN project. The profit growth had steadily increased by more than 7% since 1989. (They stabilized in 2009.) This announcement stunned Wall Street analysts. However, it aligns with the decrease in similar company profit growth worldwide. It also supports future predictions for the industry (Author, Year).

Problem: Having only short sentences makes it harder on the reader to find the most important information within the paragraph.

Possible solution:

The company reported that profit growth stabilized in 2009, though it had steadily increased by more than 7% since 1989. In 2010, the year they launch the OWN project, company profit growth decreased from the previous year. This announcement stunned Wall Street analysts. According to Author (Year), however, this decrease is exemplar of a trend across similar company profit growth worldwide; it also supports future predictions for the industry.

Vary Sentence Openings

By starting many of your sentences with the same subject or word choice can be tiresome for readers. Imagine if all your sentences within a paragraph started with the subject I, then you may not only repeat the obvious fact that you are the author of the composition, but also fill your paragraph's sentences with great redundancy. See here, for example:

My philosophy of education is derived from my personal experiences. I have been an educator for 4 years, and I have learned a lot from more experienced teachers in my district. I also work mainly with students from a low socioeconomic background; my background was quite different. I will discuss how all of these elements, along with scholarly texts, have impacted my educational philosophy.

Notice the change in the following revision:

My philosophy of education is derived from my personal experiences. Having been an educator for 4 years, I have learned a lot from more experienced teachers in my district. I also work mainly with students from a low socioeconomic background that is quite different from mine. In this paper, I will discuss how all of these elements, along with scholarly texts, have impacted my educational philosophy.

Vary Sentence Types

There are four different sentence types that can be used to avoid choppiness and monotony. You can either compose simple, compound, complex, and compound-complex sentences. Using only one variation may be burdensome for readers since they may not be able to properly engage with your text.

Simple Sentence: This form carries an independent clause with no dependent clause or conjunction. Many a time a man will lift his finger to command silence.

Compound Sentences: This form carries two independent clauses joined by a conjunction (e.g.; and, but for, yet). All men are equal; some are more equal than others. It was hot outside, and the ice cream melted.

Complex Sentences: This form carries one independent clause and at least one dependent clause. By using subordinators or conjunctions one can relate the dependent clause to the independent one. Because I was hungry, I opened the refrigerator.

Compound-Complex Sentences: This form carries several independent clauses with at least one dependent clause and several conjunctions and subordinators. We won the game, but my uniform was muddy because it rained the entire time.

Sentences in the first two sections were used from

<http://academicguides.waldenu.edu/writingcenter/scholarlyvoice/sentencestructure>.