



Sentence Variety

Having the same type of sentences repeating over and over does not make for good writing. Instead, try varying the way sentences start and flow. Having a variety of sentence structures provides a more interesting flow that maintains the audience's attention over time, much like this paragraph.

Sentence Openings

If several sentences start with The, It, This, or I, the writing becomes stale for the reader. Having a variety of sentence starters solves this problem.

Here is an example of a sentence that needs some work:

I enjoyed eating ice cream every day last summer the most.

Instead, you might write:

Last summer, my favorite activity was eating ice cream daily.

Eating ice cream was my favorite part of last summer.

My favorite part of last summer was eating ice cream every day.

Sentence Length

The same issue occurs when sentences are all the same length. Sentences that are all short or long in length become monotonous.

For example, read this quote by author Gary Provost:

"This sentence has five words. Here are five more words. Five-word sentences are fine. But several together become monotonous. Listen to what is happening. The writing is getting boring. The sound of it drones. It's like a stuck record. The ear demands some variety. Now listen. I vary the sentence length, and I create music. Music. The writing sings. It has a pleasant rhythm, a lilt, and a harmony. I use short sentences. And I use sentences of medium length. And sometimes, when I am certain the reader is rested, I will engage him with a sentence of considerable length, a sentence that burns with energy and builds with all the impetus of a crescendo, the roll of the drums, the crash of the cymbals—sounds that say listen to this, it is important."

Do not be afraid to experiment with your writing. Changing sentences around and trying new things will add life to any piece of writing!

Need more information or assistance?

Schedule an appointment with the Excel Multiliteracy Center. We are here to provide one-on-one and group assistance to any and all UCCS students!