



A Letter From the Editors

Cutting Down on Wordiness

Do you possibly see how this is a generally wordy and confusing sentence that could maybe be cut in certain places? Us, too. Let's talk about how to stop being wordy.

Cut those fillers

While proofreading your work, see if you spot any fillers. Sometimes these fillers are phrases that can be replaced with a single word, and sometimes these fillers can be cut completely.

"Due to the fact that" = "because"

"Are able to" = "could"

"With regards to" = "regarding"

"There are some people" = "some people"

"We are happy to hear that you" = "we're happy you"

(Watch for redundancies) "Whether or not" = "whether"

(Watch for redundancies) "Again reconsider" = "reconsider"

Qualifiers

Similarly, there are words called qualifiers that we don't always need. Qualifiers are words or phrases that are added to another word to modify its meaning. They can be important and correct, but they can also be overused or unnecessary.

*Your editors become extremely unhappy when you frequently use qualifiers irresponsibly." =
"Your editors aren't happy when you irresponsibly use qualifiers."*

*"Nolan usually eats fried chicken for lunch, though sometimes he may possibly eat Via 313." =
"Nolan eats fried chicken for lunch, but sometimes he eats Via 313."*

*"Rachel said that the pizza snack was very good, but she really didn't care for the pizza with
Alfredo and pineapple." = "Rachel said the pizza snack was delicious, but she disliked the pizza
with Alfredo and pineapple."*

You may notice that certain qualifiers like "very" and "really" can simply be replaced with more descriptive words. "Very good" = "delicious." "Really didn't care for" = "disliked."

Be snappy

Here's a challenge for you. Write a review response or caption as you normally would, then go back and edit for wordiness and concision. Don't hang onto words or phrases that don't add meaning, importance, or detail to your writing, and be wary of word repetition. If you don't need to say it, then don't.

Have an extremely important question about this super helpful letter? Hit us up in the #ask-an-editor Slack channel, and share your concise content with us!

Main Street Hub