

Concision

Writing less is often more. Concise writing emphasizes what's important: the argument and ideas in your paper. Revising for concision usually takes a couple rounds, so start by revising for more concise paragraphs, then move on to individual sentences.

Paragraph-Level Concision:

1. Focus on important points: Do your sentences support or distract from your main idea?
2. Delete repetitive sentences: Ask yourself "Have I already said this?" If yes, then take it out. Reading your work out loud is an effective way to identify repetitive sentences.
3. Combine sentences: Strengthen the relationship between ideas and reduce unnecessary words.
4. Check for circular logic: A results in B because A is repetitive and unconvincing.

Wordy paragraph:

There are numerous different ways to rise to the upper echelons of student success, but seeing a writing tutor is a really good place to start. *Some writing tutors are peers while others are older and more experienced(1), but no matter what, they can help you become a better student(2).* In making a judgment about the success of one writing center, it was shown that the rate of successful course completion increased for students who did not refrain from seeing writing tutor ("Learning & Success"). *This shows that students who work with a writing tutor become better writers because writing tutors work with students on their writing skills(3).* What's interesting is that the courses were successfully completed and were not limited to only writing classes. *They included other subjects as well. The fact that course completion increased in many different subjects shows that seeing a writing tutor helps students become better writers as well as better students(4).*

Works Cited

"Learning & Success." *Cartwright Learning Resource Center.* Santa Barbara City College, 2016, http://www.sbccc.edu/clrc/writing_center/success.php.

1. This is unnecessary information.
2. This is repeated from the 1st sentence.
3. This logic is circular.
4. These sentences can be combined

More concise paragraph revision:

There are numerous different ways to rise to the upper echelons of student success, but seeing a writing tutor is a really good place to start. In making a judgment about the success of one writing center, it was shown that the rate of successful course completion increased for students who did not refrain from seeing a writing tutor ("Learning & Success"). What's interesting is that the courses were successfully completed and were not limited to only writing classes. They included other subjects as well, which shows that seeing a writing tutor helps students become better writers as well as better students.

Sentence Level Concision:

1. Delete meaningless words: Adverbs and adjectives are often unnecessary.

... seeing a writing tutor is *a really good place to start*.

... seeing a writing tutor is *a good place to start*.

2. Replace lengthy phrases with specific words: Is there a one-word synonym for longer phrases?

In *making a judgment about the success* of one writing center...

In *an assessment* of one writing center...

3. Delete repetitive words: Do your words have the same meaning or imply each other?

There are *numerous different ways*...

There are *different ways*... OR There are *numerous ways*...

4. Change negatives to positives: Using positive phrases and antonyms instead of negative adjectives ("not clean" vs "dirty") is usually clearer and more concise.

...who *did not refrain from seeing* a writing tutor

...who *saw* a writing tutor

5. Use free modifiers: Past participles ("-ed" verb forms) or present participles ("-ing" verb form) that modify the subject of a sentence can help you include multiple verb phrases.

What's interesting is that *the courses were successfully completed and* were not limited to only writing classes.

What's interesting is that *the successfully completed courses* were not limited to only writing classes.

6. Use active instead of passive:

In an assessment of one writing center, *it was shown that*...

An assessment of one writing center *showed that*...

7. Avoid unnecessarily complex language: Academic language doesn't need to be overly complex or pompous, but it does need to be clear.

...ways to rise to the upper echelons of student success...

...ways to become a successful student...