

Vary Sentence Structure

It is very important when you are writing a series of sentences that the sentences do not all sound the same. Sentences that all sound the same are not interesting to the reader. To help with this problem, you can vary, or change, the way your sentences are structured. You can do this by:

Varying the length of your sentences. Mix it up by writing short, medium, and long sentences.

Short – Present one idea clearly.

Ex. – The garage door closed behind us.

Medium – Connect ideas and add details.

Ex. – While I was in the kitchen eating an apple, dad politely asked me to take out the trash.

Long – Establish complex interrelationships.

Ex. – For over a century, the *Statue of Liberty*, in all its majesty, has stood at the entrance to New York Harbor, welcoming immigrants, travelers, and returning Americans and symbolizing the freedoms we value.

Varying the rhythm of your sentences. Use front loaded, end loaded, and balanced sentences to create emphasis.

Front loaded - Present the subject and first in the initial position, followed by phrases.

Ex. – Inside Out is a wonderful movie, with panoramic scenes, larger than life characters, and universal implications.

End loaded – Create suspense and emphasis by placing the subject at the end of the sentence.

Ex. – With panoramic scenes, larger than life characters, and universal implications, Inside Out is a wonderful movie.

Balanced – Create balance by placing the subject and predicate at opposite ends of the sentence.

Ex. - Inside Out, with panoramic scenes, larger than life characters, and universal implications, is a wonderful movie.

Varying sentence beginnings. Start sentences with different parts of speech.

Begin with adverbs

Ex. – Cautiously, the ornithologist approached the eagle's nest.

Begin with adjectives

Ex. – Exhausted and dirty, Jason collapsed in the armchair.

Begin with verbal phrases

Ex. – Worried that the gold might be stolen, the banker locked it in the vault.