

“that” vs. “who”

- “that” refers to things; “who” refers to people.

All of you that like History love Mr. Smith.

- The sentiment is true, but the grammar is bad—you are not things!

All of you who like History adore Mr. Smith.

“narrator”

- not “narator,” “narrarator,” or “nararrator”!

“repetition”

- not “repetition,” “repition,” or “repitition.”

“recurrent” or “recurring”

- not “reoccurring”

“it is” / “there are” etc.

- Flabby phrases. Avoid them whenever possible.

use active voice

- Usually it will make your writing sound firmer, livelier, more vital.
- *The ball was thrown by Pete.*
- *Pete threw the ball.*

“reference”

- Some people find use of “reference” as a verb (meaning “refer to”) intensely annoying. I am one of those people.
- Why? To me, “to reference” is to provide citations. I know this word’s usage is changing, but I’m old. Indulge me.

comma splices

- Eliminate ‘em! Please!

“however”

- One place I’m seeing a lot of comma splices is in compound sentences containing “however”:
- *The first stanza contains two references to light, however the second stanza is filled with words associated with night.*

“however”

- Because the sentence contains two independent clauses, it needs a semicolon instead of a comma:
- *The first stanza contains two references to light, however the second stanza is filled with words associated with night.*

becomes

- *The first stanza contains two references to light; however, the second stanza is filled with words associated with night.*

“however”

- That doesn't mean that any word containing “however” will demand a semicolon.
- *Szyborska's wit, however, emerges in the final stanza.*
- *However, the poem never directly refers to the war.*

“So what?”

- Your thesis should answer that question.

What makes a good topic sentence?

- Most sentences in expository or persuasive writing can be classified as FACT or JUDGMENT.
- **Fact:** A statement that can be proven true or false
- **Judgment:** a statement which shows personal preference; an arguable, supportable statement
- A fact sentence is too limited to organize anything.
- An arguable, supportable judgment statement, or **assertion**, makes the best topic sentence in expository and persuasive writing.

Fact Vs. Assertion

- 1. These are car tires.
- 2. These are the best tires to buy.
- 3. The driving age in Oregon should be raised to 18.
- 4. The driving age in Oregon is 16.
- 5. Children in Japan clean their own classrooms.
- 6. We should clean our own classrooms here in the US.

Fact Vs. Assertion

- 1. “Cinderella” shows the elements of a perfect romance.
- 2. In “Cinderella,” the main character wears glass slippers.
- 3. “Cinderella” depicts an unrealistic ideal of romance.
- 4. *The Hunger Games* is a bestseller.
- 5. *The Hunger Games* presents a new type of heroine in American literature.

Fact Vs. Assertion

- 1. Akhmatova uses references to ice in this poem.
- 2. Akhmatova lived through the Stalinist purges of the 1930s.
- 3. Akhmatova uses references to ice to show the repressive atmosphere of Stalin's Russia.

Essay Basics

- Introduction:
 - needs to be more than one sentence
 - needs to contain the poet's complete name (first name as well as last name)
 - needs to include the title of the poem or poems you will discuss
 - needs to include the thesis statement as the last sentence of the introduction.

Essay Basics

- Body:
 - needs to be at least three paragraphs (one paragraph per poem is not enough!); more is OK
 - needs to be organized into paragraphs
 - each supporting paragraph should start with a topic sentence that is an assertion (or, if you have a lovely transition sentence as the first sentence of the paragraph, the topic sentence should be the second sentence)

Essay Basics

- Conclusion:
 - does not need to be lengthy for an in-class, timed essay
 - should not introduce any new arguments

For the Szymborska essay:

- Don't forget to bring your packet!
- Aim to write *at least* three pages
- Concentrate on one or two poems—probably just one since you will only have 60 minutes