

Writing Well

Use complete sentences, and combine sentences properly

All sentences contain a subject and predicate verb

subject: sentences

predicate verb: contain

A sentence is an independent clause, which is a clause not dependent on the rest of the sentence to be understood.

Independent clause

Dependent clause

The man who shot Liberty Valence was elected to Congress

Use semicolons (;), or conjunctions (and, but etc.) along with commas, to combine independent clauses into one sentence.

this is a run-on sentence:

Of course, there are going to be disagreements but that is common and the greater good is in the entertainment.

corrected:

Of course, there are going to be disagreements, but that is common, and the greater good is in the entertainment.

this error is what's called a comma splice:

Everyone likes to be entertained, news is very important because it allows people to be aware of what's going on the in the world.

corrected:

Everyone likes to be entertained; news is very important because it allows people to be aware of what's

Academic writing is in the third person; don't write in the first or second person

first person: *I, we, our* etc.

second person: *you, your*

third person: *one*

incorrect:
It's important sometimes to use your news judgment to come up with the right solution.

corrected:
It's important sometimes to use ones news judgment to come up with the right solution.

incorrect:
Communitarianism is about your obligation to the community.

corrected:
Communitarianism is about ones obligation to the community.

incorrect:
Our society of rushing around has caused news to be short, important, and exciting.

corrected:
Today's fast-paced society has caused news to be short, important, and exciting.

incorrect:
Watch your manner of speech if you want to develop a peaceful state of mind.

corrected:
People must watch their manner of speech if they want to develop a peaceful state of mind.

never write:

In my opinion ...

I believe ...

I don't see much harm in the situation.

Noun and pronouns must agree in number

Singular pronouns refer to singular nouns; plural pronouns refer to plural nouns

incorrect:
The Judeo-Christian ethic states that a person should do unto others as they would have them do unto them.

corrected:
The Judeo-Christian ethic states that a person should do unto others as he or she would have them do unto him or her.

better:
The Judeo-Christian ethic states that people should do unto others as they would have them do unto them.

incorrect:

It is true that if one doesn't like the content being used in the program, they can always change the channel.

corrected:

It is true that if one doesn't like the content being used in the program, he or she can always change the channel.

better:

It is true that if people don't like the content being used in the program, they can always change the channel.

incorrect:

He points out that no one is forced to listen to his talk show, they choose to.

corrected:

He points out that people are not forced to listen to his talk show, they choose to.

Use singular pronouns when referring to single entities

incorrect:

By supporting the cause through their project, GAP is making a statement but at the expense of the victims.

GAP is one entity, Use singular pronouns to refer it.

Corrected:

By supporting the cause through its project, GAP is making a statement but at the expense of the victims.

incorrect:

The Boy Scouts said they would re-examine their policy against gays.

corrected:

The Boy Scouts said it would re-examine its policy against gays.

Use words properly

Spell check will not catch these errors in students' commentaries:

~~Revealing~~ **Revealing** a pedophile ~~that~~ **who** is in the community and actively preying on young girls out ~~ways~~ **weighs** the any harm caused by the deception.

Campbell was ~~humored~~ **rumored** to have a drug addiction to cocaine...

The radio station gets a large amount of callers who strongly ~~appoint~~ **oppose** his views.

In ~~retaliate~~ **retaliation**, Campbell sued in the British courts for invasion of privacy.

The Daily Mirror should have put **themselves** in Campbell's shoes, because they, too, probably enjoy their privacy.

Newspapers do not wear shoes.

The Daily Mirror's **editors** should have put themselves in Campbell's shoes, because they, too, probably enjoy their privacy.

We will be discussing philosophies and checklists to help you deal with some of the ethical issues.

Students using these questions or checklists must answer all the questions they raise in their commentaries and tests.

You don't need to apply every philosophy to a case study