



SENTENCE CLARITY

What Is Sentence Clarity?

Sentence clarity means that your writing is easy to understand. Clear sentences express ideas in a simple and direct way.

When sentences are unclear, your reader may feel confused or have difficulty following your ideas.

Why Is Sentence Clarity Important?

Clear sentences:

- help your reader understand your ideas
- make your writing more effective
- improve the overall quality of your work

In college writing, clarity is just as important as having good ideas.

Keeping Sentences Simple and Direct

Clear sentences are usually simple, direct, and easy to follow.

Unclear: In the situation of students who are experiencing stress, there are many different kinds of challenges that they may face.

Clear: Students who experience stress face many challenges.

Avoiding Wordiness

Wordy sentences use more words than necessary.

Wordy: Due to the fact that students are busy, they often have limited time.

Clear: Because students are busy, they often have limited time.

Removing Repetition

Avoid repeating the same idea or words.

Repetitive: Students need to improve their writing skills because writing skills are important.

Clear: Students need to improve their writing skills because they are important.

Using Specific Language

Clear writing uses specific and concrete words.

Unclear: Things can be difficult for students.

Clear: Managing time can be difficult for students.

Avoiding Unclear Pronouns

Pronouns (he, she, it, they, this, that) should clearly refer to a specific noun.

Unclear: Students completed the assignment, and it was confusing.

Clear: Students completed the assignment, and the instructions were confusing.

Breaking Up Long Sentences

Very long sentences can be difficult to follow.

Unclear: Students who are working long hours and managing personal responsibilities and trying to succeed in school often feel overwhelmed and struggle to complete assignments.

Clear: Students often work long hours and manage personal responsibilities. As a result, they may feel overwhelmed and struggle to complete assignments.

Common Mistakes to Avoid

Too Many Ideas in One Sentence:

Unclear: Students are busy and they work and they go to class and they feel stressed.

Clear: Students are busy. They work, attend class, and often feel stressed.

Vague Language:

Unclear: This is something that causes problems.

Clear: Lack of time causes problems for students.

Unclear Connections:

Unclear: Students studied a lot, which was hard.

Clear: Students studied a lot, which was difficult because they were also working.

Tips for Improving Sentence Clarity

- Use simple and direct language
- Remove unnecessary words
- Avoid repetition
- Be specific about your ideas
- Check that pronouns clearly refer to a noun
- Break long sentences into shorter ones

Final Takeaway

Clear sentences help your ideas stand out. When your writing is simple and direct, your reader can focus on your message instead of trying to understand your sentences.