

Variety in Sentence Structure

When writing a paper it is easy to simply write the first thing that comes to mind. However, since it's easiest to think in subject/verb format it is easy to forget to add some variety from the simple subject/verb sentences into papers. Try adding some variety to sentences by using these suggestions. (Changes are underlined)

Example subject/verb sentence: Dr. Robert Misbin had many sleepless nights because he was worried about a drug he was supposed to review.

- Start a sentence with an “ing” word. Ex. Worrying about what he was going to do about the drug he was supposed to review, Dr. Robert Misbin was unable to sleep. (NOTE: The subject—who or what is doing the “ing” action must be placed directly after the phrase or it will still be a subject/verb style sentence.)
- Start a sentence with an “ly” word. Ex. Unfortunately, Dr. Robert Misbin had many sleepless nights because he was worried about a drug he was supposed to review.
- Start a sentence with a Subordinating conjunction which includes the words: *until, since, before, as, if, when, although, because, as long as, and after*. Ex. Since Dr. Robert Misbin was worried about the drug he was suppose to review, he was unable to sleep.
- Start a sentence with an infinitive (starting with the word to). Ex. To get a restful night's sleep, Dr. Robert Misbin could not worry about the drug he was supposed to review.
- Start a sentence with a preposition. Ex. Behind the sleepless nights of Dr. Robert Misbin is the worry of the upcoming drug review.

NOTE: Try and use at least two or three of these types of varied sentence structures in each paragraph you write to add some spice to your writing.

Some other suggestions to adding variety to your writing are to vary the length of your sentences. Make some long and some short. This will help keep the reader's interest as well. Also stay away from connecting every sentence with the word “and.” If you see lots of “and's” in your writing take some out and make what's left into two separate sentences.