

# Concise Writing Worksheet

Read the following sentences and try to make them more concise. At the end there is also a paragraph that needs some love, try to mark up where the paragraph needs help the most and, if you have time, try to rewrite the paragraph taking those problems into consideration.

## Passive Voice

- 1) The Suspect was seen by some people waiting at a bus stop.
- 2) The lightbulb was supposedly invented by Thomas Edison.

## Prepositional phrases

- 1) There is a jar on top of the desk that is often full of notes written on by students full of questions before being placed into the jar.
- 2) Students must first sign onto computers before getting into their appointment and being able to immerse themselves in knowledge in order to gain knowledge and get onto the Dean's List.

## Wordy sentences

- 1) In the story, the author writes, using much detail, that there are many things that the characters of the story could have chosen to do when they were faced with a choice, but instead the characters were frozen by fear and could not move because of their fear and were unable to think of a way out of the situation they were in.
- 2) Despite the fact that students are often always in dire straits under circumstances in which money is involved, the school neglects to acknowledge that it has the opportunity to explore the possibility of scholarships in anticipation of the needs of their attending students.



Example Paragraph:

Note any instances of wordy or unclear writing and think about how you might make it concise

Dana Canastar  
Professor X  
ENGL 1011  
29 September 2016

### This Is Why You Should Watch *The Walking Dead*

The Walking Dead rules the TV air-screen because for 6 seasons (and counting!) it packs the screen with action, drama, love, death, excitement, tension, drama, and thrills and chills every week. Because of its huge popularity with everyone who sees even a minute of it, the show is now in its 6<sup>th</sup> season and has spawned a spin-off series, multiple video game adaptations, and is the only show on TV that possesses its own TV talk show. Beginning with the start of the show, the world has waited on bated breath for the next episode and with much enthusiasm discusses the trials and hurdles of the entire cast of characters, which grows ever bigger. There's almost too many—time to kill some off! Many TV shows sell their stories by using copious images of sex and violence throughout the show, but not this show. The Walking Dead, on the other hand, almost ignores sex entirely, which makes it far and away from one of your typical shows on TV, which loads the screen with unneeded sex sex sex. However, audiences still tune in every week to watch the show, even though it can be extremely violent, because it examines the human condition in ways few other shows manage to bother with, or if they do it's only for a few moments before getting back to sex and/or bullets flying. Audiences may be captivated by *The Walking Dead* because of its variety of characters, relatability, compelling set design, awesome acting chops, eerie music, realistic FX, and many different types or kinds of characters. These factors are important because they go out of their way to strongly indicate the developing relationship between regular watchers of TV and TV shows.

