Picking the right verb

*Common troubles in writing come from not having a concise or descriptive enough verb or verb phrase, be examining the meaning, increasing vocabulary, and stretching the imagination, verbs can be alerted to create more specific meanings.*

- Started to go → Went
- Began to think → Thought
- Quickly drive → Speed
- Strongly lift → Heave, heft
- Can be alerted to create → Can be transformed
- Will never be able to → Can’t (cannot)

Choosing better adjectives and nouns

*Often description words can get in the way of writing, or not tell enough to be effective. When selected, adjectives can give more imagery and more flair to writing than a vague adverb. This clarifies the meaning and makes the reading more enjoyable. A warning is issued however, not to exaggerate.*

- Big building → Monolithic skyscraper
- Small bug → Minuscule parasite
- Slow turtle → Creeping tortoise
- Astounding and incredibly fast car → Enzo Ferrari

Other traps in writing

*Other words can stand in the way of being clear and having specific meaning. Always choose the better words over the good words.*

- Non descriptive subjects and nouns (things, stuff, it)
- Unclear pronouns (pronouns without an antecedent)
- Adverbs (a lot, really, so)

Shortening, and improving sentences

*Making sentences shorter can help a writer say more with less effort. This helps get the exact meaning across without the complex word phrases that could be placed in the sentence. Eliminating redundant phrases, poor modifiers, and insufficient verbs will clarify and shorten and sentences. The can be best employed when writing a thesis statement.*
Making sentences shorter can help improve the paper and make them shorter.

Making sentences shorter can improve the paper.

When the really large train pulls into the incredibly busy station, the round and fat conductor will be the first onto the dimly lit platform.

When the enormous train arrives at the bustling station, the plump conductor will be the first onto the dreary platform.

Jim started to run around the store, looking for the thief that might cost him his job.

Jim ran around the store, tracking the thief that ruined his job.

General tips for better, more clear writing

1. Don’t say it in ten words if you can say it in eight.
2. If it doesn’t make it clearer, don’t make it shorter.
3. Choose the better word over the good word.
4. Revise verb and noun phrases to be more specific.

Examples of revised thesis statements with these ideas in mind

- Original (46 words)
  - So in all of this mix and mayhem, writer and director of Batman Begins, Christopher Nolan, shows us how an idea, or symbol, can be more fearful than the object itself though the tactics of fear and the transformation of one man into something everlasting.

- Revised (17 words)
  - Christopher Nolan uses fear tactics to illustrate how ideas and symbols inspire more fear than objects.

- Original (34 words)
  - Through the title of burglar being thrust upon him, Mr. Baggins found placement and ability as a burglar, and reinvented the concept while performing the functions he associated with the task of burglary.

- Revised (12 words)
  - Mr. Baggins reinvents burglary, finding placement and ability in his role.

- Original (45 words)
  - When an individual, community, or society endeavors to create their own ideas of peace or betterment, such as Victor Frankenstein and Obi-Wan Kenobi, if not properly applied can have the exact opposite effect to the detriment of themselves and those they ventured to assist.

- Revised (13 words)
Victor Frankenstein and Obi-Wan Kenobi illustrate the negative effects of self-concocted peace.