

5 WAYS TO WRITE BETTER PARAGRAPHS

INTRODUCTION

When writing/editing paragraphs we have to focus not just on the strength of the individual sentences, but also on how those sentences work together to create a strong, cohesive, and entertaining paragraph.

While it might seem counter intuitive at first, most paragraph level problems are actually caused by a lack of strong voice and perspective. We can write strong sentences and we can write strong scenes, but it's on the paragraph level that we really build and develop voice. I'm hoping that through these five tips I can help you both write better paragraphs and strengthen your voice/POV.

As with everything in fiction writing, these recommendations aren't set in stone. If you have a creative or logical reason to ignore any piece of writing advice, please do so.

1. AVOID MONOTONOUS SENTENCE STRUCTURE

Monotonous sentence structure can take a variety of different forms, and many writers have structures they lean on more than others, but by far the most common culprit of monotonous writing is over reliance on starting every sentence with a subject followed by a verb. For example:

He walked into the store. He grabbed a cart. He walked to the produce. He picked up a head of broccoli. He put it into his cart.

I want to be totally clear that this is not a bad structure at all. Starting with the subject is ideal for action because it prevents passive voice. However, when the structure is used in several back-to-back sentences, it creates a monotonous sound.

Sometimes this type of monotony can be improved by combining the sentences together so that the actions take fewer sentences to describe. For example:

He walked into the store, grabbed a cart, then walked to the produce. He picked up a head of broccoli and put it into his cart.

This sounds less monotonous because we use "he" less often, but it's not a huge improvement because we still have a lot of word repetition ("walked" is used twice, "into" is used twice, and two clauses end in "cart"). We can improve this paragraph a bit more by eliminating the repetition:

He walked inside the store, grabbed a cart near the entrance, then shuffled over to the produce. He picked up a head of broccoli and put it into his empty cart.

In the rewrite above, "into" is replaced with "inside," *near the entrance* is added to avoid ending two clauses with "cart," and "empty" is added in front of the second instance of "cart" to give it a different sound. Lastly, we changed one instance of "walked" to "shuffled."

Better Paragraphs

Walter Lowrie Hervey



Better Paragraphs:

Better School Organization ,1920 **How to Write Better Medical Papers** Michael Hanna,2019-03-20 This book guides medical researchers through all stages of transforming their scientific data and ideas into a published paper Many researchers in medicine including the life sciences and health sciences struggle to get their research written and published Manuscripts are typically rejected and or sent back for revisions several times before ever being published One reason for this is that researchers have not received much instruction in the specific subjects and skills needed to write and publish scientific medical papers research methodology ethics statistics data visualization writing revising and the practicalities of publishing Instead of wasting the reader s time discussing trivialities of punctuation spelling etc this book tackles all the major scientific issues that routinely lead to manuscripts getting rejected from the journals The section Preparing covers the range of methodological ethical and practical aspects that researchers need to address before starting to write their paper The section Analyzing reviews commonplace problems in the statistical analysis and presentation and how to resolve those problems The section Drafting describes what to write in all the various parts of a paper the Introduction Methods Results Discussion Abstract etc The section Revising explains and illustrates how to improve the writing style of any manuscript The section Publishing discusses how to navigate the peer review process and all other practical aspects of the publishing phase This book draws on the author s decade of experience as an independent medical writer and research consultant but it is not written merely as the personal opinion of yet another expert The entire book is grounded in the existing scientific and scholarly literature with extensive references and a lengthy annotated bibliography so readerscan quickly obtain more information on any aspect they want Thus this book provides a more evidence based scholarly account of how medical scientific papers should be written in order to improve medical communication and accelerate scientific progress After reading this entire book cover to cover medical researchers will know how to write better quality medical papers and they will be able to publish their work in better journals with less time and struggle This book is essential reading for anyone conducting research in clinical medicine life sciences or health sciences **Improve Your Paragraphs** Steve M.

Matthews,1994 Proceedings -- Better Letters Association Convention Better Letters Association. Conference,1918

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Table of Contents Better Paragraphs

1. Understanding the eBook Better Paragraphs
 - The Rise of Digital Reading Better Paragraphs
 - Advantages of eBooks Over Traditional Books
2. Identifying Better Paragraphs
 - Exploring Different Genres
 - Considering Fiction vs. Non-Fiction
 - Determining Your Reading Goals
3. Choosing the Right eBook Platform
 - Popular eBook Platforms
 - Features to Look for in an Better Paragraphs
 - User-Friendly Interface
4. Exploring eBook Recommendations from Better Paragraphs
 - Personalized Recommendations

- Better Paragraphs User Reviews and Ratings
- Better Paragraphs and Bestseller Lists
- 5. Accessing Better Paragraphs Free and Paid eBooks
 - Better Paragraphs Public Domain eBooks
 - Better Paragraphs eBook Subscription Services
 - Better Paragraphs Budget-Friendly Options
- 6. Navigating Better Paragraphs eBook Formats
 - ePub, PDF, MOBI, and More
 - Better Paragraphs Compatibility with Devices
 - Better Paragraphs Enhanced eBook Features
- 7. Enhancing Your Reading Experience
 - Adjustable Fonts and Text Sizes of Better Paragraphs
 - Highlighting and Note-Taking Better Paragraphs
 - Interactive Elements Better Paragraphs
- 8. Staying Engaged with Better Paragraphs
 - Joining Online Reading Communities
 - Participating in Virtual Book Clubs
 - Following Authors and Publishers Better Paragraphs
- 9. Balancing eBooks and Physical Books Better Paragraphs
 - Benefits of a Digital Library
 - Creating a Diverse Reading Collection Better Paragraphs
- 10. Overcoming Reading Challenges
 - Dealing with Digital Eye Strain
 - Minimizing Distractions
 - Managing Screen Time
- 11. Cultivating a Reading Routine Better Paragraphs
 - Setting Reading Goals Better Paragraphs
 - Carving Out Dedicated Reading Time
- 12. Sourcing Reliable Information of Better Paragraphs
 - Fact-Checking eBook Content of Better Paragraphs

- Distinguishing Credible Sources
- 13. Promoting Lifelong Learning
 - Utilizing eBooks for Skill Development
 - Exploring Educational eBooks
- 14. Embracing eBook Trends
 - Integration of Multimedia Elements
 - Interactive and Gamified eBooks

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