

VAGUE/GENERAL LANGUAGE

1) Look at the following sentences and make them sound more academic. The highlighted phrases indicate the problem in each sentence.

- a) Crash test dummies are *really important for* automotive crash tests.
- b) There has been *a lot of* interest in how background sounds such as music affect an individual's ability to concentrate.
- c) *Nice* results were obtained by using structural bamboo *and not* timber.
- d) According to a recent study *just about* 25% of all *people using cell phones* view *texting* as an important source of entertainment.
- e) Consumer interest in electronic billing and payment is *getting bigger and bigger*.
- f) *Good* results were *gotten* from the initial test run; however, *we need to do* more tests to *find out* the performance on a larger scale.

2) The following text contains some too general vocabulary as well as unnecessary statements. Rephrase it so that it sounds more academic and does not include unimportant information.

As it was said a few paragraphs above, different populations in a country have different demands and so they might like to have different laws and policies. Because people would like to have different rules, they vote for politicians with different opinions. This sort of behavior of people voting then leads to politicians setting up different organizations – each based around certain policies – known as political parties.

3) The following sentences are too vague, ambiguous, or simply unnecessary. Rewrite them so that you avoid these problems.

- a) Consumer demand is rising in the area of services.
- b) Strong reading skills are an important factor in students' success at university.

- c) [On the rise of graphic photography during the Civil War] Photography took on new aspects during the Civil War.

- d) The computations lasted approximately 48 to 51 minutes.

- e) The proposed solution is to use metric A and metric X, even though it is not without its detriments.

- f) During the course of the test, the device malfunctioned prior to the event of test completion.

- g) Regardless of the fact that the device malfunctioned, the test was completed with great success.