

First Two Words and SOB verbs

Strategies to improve your writing at the sentence level

First Two Words

Step 1: Get a blank sheet of paper and number it

Step 2: Go through your paper, sentence by sentence, and write down the first two words of every sentence

Step 3: What do you see? Are you using a lot of the same structure to begin sentences? Are you using the same words? Review Kinds of Sentences (handout/link or video)

Step 4: Make changes to improve your sentence variety and fluency

SOB verbs (state of being)

Step 1: Reacquaint yourself with state of being verbs.

Is, are, was, were, am, been, being, will be

Step 2: Look for them in your paper and highlight them

Step 3: Go back and change them to action verbs, which will require changing the entire sentence or at least more than just one word