

NAME:



Writer's Stylus ›

Portfolio
5

A CLERESTORY LEARNING PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM: WRITING

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REVISION SKILLS CHECKLIST: Grade 5

ACTIVE VOICE

- Read the draft sentence by sentence to identify any written in passive voice.
- Unless the emphasis is intentionally placed on the receiver of the action, revise the sentence by making the subject perform an action.

ADVERBS

- Identify every adverb in the draft.
- Question the necessity of each one. Could a stronger verb eliminate the need for an adverb?
- Look for redundancy created by modifiers (e.g., *She smiled happily*.) Eliminate redundancy.

ANTECEDENTS

- Read the draft to identify each pronoun. Then read the surrounding text to identify each antecedent.
- If the pronoun-antecedent is confusing or vague, revise by using a noun in place of the antecedent or by restructuring the text so that the pronoun-antecedent relationship is clear.

AUTHENTICITY

- Read your writing aloud. Does it sound enough like you to make the reader hear your voice?
- Examine your word choice. Do any of the words communicate at a higher or lower level than is normal for you? If so, reevaluate their use.
- Are the character's motives and desires clear?
- Would the character, considering background, motives, desires, and other relevant influences, say that? in that way?

PREPOSITIONAL PHRASES

- Read the draft to identify prepositional phrases.
- Examine each prepositional phrase, especially those in sentences that contain two or more.
- If possible, revise the sentence to eliminate as many prepositional phrases as possible without changing your intended meaning.

REDUNDANCY

- Identify every adjective and adverb in the draft, including prepositional phrases acting as adjectives or adverbs.

REDUNDANCY (continued)

- Question the necessity of each one. Could a stronger verb eliminate the need for an adverb? Could a stronger noun eliminate the need for an adjective?
- Look for redundancy created by modifiers (e.g., *She smiled happily*, and *The boy was sad and unhappy*.) Eliminate redundancy.

REPETITION

- Read each sentence to identify repeated words. If possible, revise to eliminate the repetition.

SENTENCE LIMITS

- Read the draft sentence by sentence and identify the main idea(s) of each sentence.
- If the sentence contains more than one (or two) main ideas, break it into more than one sentence.

SENTENCE STARTERS (THERE, IT)

- Find each usage of *there* and *it*. If one opens a sentence and includes unnecessary phrasing, revise the sentence to eliminate *there* or *it*.

SUBJECT-VERB PLACEMENT

- Read the draft sentence by sentence.
- Where possible, shift phrases to move the subject and verb closer to the sentence opening.

VERB TENSE

- Read the draft sentence by sentence and identify any verbs that are more elaborate than simple past or present tense.
- Reword the sentence with a more immediate verb tense. If the meaning remains constant, keep the more immediate verb tense.
- Check each paragraph/section for consistency in verb tense.

VERBS TO NOUNS

- Read the draft to identify nouns formed with a suffix.
- Identify the verb from which the noun was formed (e.g., action formed from act).
- Revise the sentence by using the verb form. If the meaning stays the same, consider keeping the revision.

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Choosing the right dog for a family pet takes careful thought and consideration.

There are more than one hundred and fifty different breeds to choose from, each with their own personalities and characteristics. Two of the most popular breeds that families choose to bring home are the golden retriever and the German shepherd because these dogs are playful, fun, and loving pets. There are many similarities between golden retrievers and German shepherds; however, there are significant differences in their temperaments and needs and becoming educated about these characteristics can help families make the best choice about which dog to own.

There are many families who consider buying or adopting a golden retriever or German shepherd because both breeds are known for their good personalities and temperaments. It is both types of dogs who enjoy playing with kids and are loyal and smart and both thrive on love, attention, and plenty of play and exercise. However, golden retrievers are much more outgoing and friendly toward other pets, dogs or strangers than German shepherds are. It is German shepherds who have a tendency to become over-protective of their homes and families and this can make them excellent guard-dogs, but also means that they must be trained not to be hostile to family friends or other dogs. On the other hand, golden retrievers are friendly to almost everyone and are unlikely to bite or attack a stranger or other dog. It will be German shepherds who are happiest when they have challenging tasks to perform and a loving family

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to protect. It is golden retrievers who are happiest when they are with caring people who will play with them. While similar in many ways, German shepherds and golden retrievers have important differences in temperament that make them unique.

It is also important for families to consider how well they can meet the needs of a golden retriever versus a German shepherd because German shepherds and golden retrievers are both medium-sized dogs who can adapt to living in an apartment as long as they are taken for long, brisk walks every day and are given plenty of time to exercise. Both types of dogs are happiest when they have a large yard to run around, and both become unhappy when they are isolated or kept away from the family. There are golden retrievers who are more likely to find ways to be active within the house than German shepherds, who are generally inactive indoors and golden retrievers are also more content with simple games such as fetching a ball, while German shepherds require more complex challenges to keep them from becoming bored. Both types of dogs are heavy shedders and require regular brushing and grooming, as well as access to plenty of nutritious dog food. In summary, golden retrievers and German shepherds have similar temperaments and needs that make them excellent pets; however, there are important differences for families to consider before choosing which dog to bring home.

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