

## Honors 110: Practice Writing Clear, Precise Sentences

**Description:** Using the paramedic method, which helps eliminate the over-use of prepositional phrases, forms of the verb “to be,” passive verb constructions, redundancies, and pretentious diction, revise the following sentences.

--For each sentence, first underline the prepositional phrases.

--Then, circle forms of the verb “to be.”

--Then, figure out “who’s kicking who”—who’s doing what action?

--Finally, rewrite each sentence underneath the original. Use simple, active verbs and get the actor up front. Eliminate wordy wind-ups. Make your sentences as clear, simple, and direct as possible!

### Sample:

#### Original Sentence

Some of the groups who are in opposition to the death penalty feel there is doubt about its morality.

#### Revision

Some groups who oppose the death penalty doubt its morality.

### Sentences to revise:

1. The process by which nominees are chosen for the annual Academy Awards is viewed by many veteran movie critics as highly political.
2. Basically, in light of the fact that Congressman Fuenches was totally exhausted by his last campaign, there was an expectation on the part of the voters that he would not reduplicate his effort to achieve office in government again.
3. It is to be hoped that we discover a means to create an absolutely proper and fitting tribute to Professor Espinoza.
4. There is a desire on the part of many of us to maintain a spring recess for the purpose of getting away from the demands of our studies.
5. The transformer was struck by lightning, plunging us into darkness.
6. At what point in time will a downturn in the stock market have a really serious effect on the social life of people as a whole?
7. I would call your attention to the fact that our President, who was formerly the Governor of Arkansas, is basically a Southerner.
8. There are millions of fans who desperately want the Hartford Whalers to stay in the city.
9. Burying nuclear waste in Antarctica would be in violation of an international treaty.
10. The nursery school teacher education training sessions involve active interfacing with preschool children of the appropriate age as well as intensive peer interaction in the form of role playing.