



The Writing Center

UNIVERSITY OF COLORADO

DENVER | ANSCHUTZ MEDICAL CAMPUS

Sentence Combining (Eliminating Wordiness & Redundancy)

Wordiness and redundancy (unnecessary repetition of words/ideas) can be distracting and confusing. Combining sentences and cutting superfluous wording in the process is a great method for not only eliminating these issues, but also producing more complex and compound sentences.

The following five-sentence paragraph (**Section 1**) from an annotated bibliography isn't as strong as it could be because it's redundant and wordy. **Section 2** of this handout identifies the wordy/redundant portions using underline; **Section 3** breaks the sentence-combining process into three separate (consecutive) examples and **Section 4** exhibits the final product: a two-sentence paragraph that is 25% shorter and overall clearer.

1. Wordy & Redundant Paragraph:

Thomas Augst's article offers a personal perspective into the Temperance movement. In Augst's article, he examines the literary rhetoric of the Washingtonian temperance leaders and authors. Augst compares Washingtonian reformer rhetoric to the rhetoric of more traditional and religious reformers of the era. One of the most important aspects of Augst's articles is that Augst observes that the Washingtonians' original views of temperance were removed from religious, political, and ethnic ideologies. Their motive for temperance was driven by an individual's want to become a clean, moral citizen that helps serve the community. (Word Count: 92)

2. Paragraph with Wordiness/Redundancy Underlined

NOTE: The letters denoting each sentence are used in the Section 3 examples.

(a) Thomas Augst's article offers a personal perspective into the Temperance movement. (b) In Augst's article, he examines the literary rhetoric of the Washingtonian temperance leaders and authors. (c) Augst compares Washingtonian reformer rhetoric to the rhetoric of more traditional and religious reformers of the era. (d) One of the most important aspects of Augst's article is that Augst observes that the Washingtonians' original views of temperance were removed from religious, political, and ethnic ideologies. (e) Their motive for temperance was driven by an individual's want to become a clean, moral citizen that helps serve the community. (Word Count: 92)

3. Sentence Combining to Eliminate Wordiness & Redundancy

Each of the following examples takes two sentences from **Section 2** and demonstrates (via ~~strike through~~) how removing wordiness and redundancy can result in a more concise sentence.

Example 1: Combining Sentence **(a)** and **(b)** from the original paragraph (**Section 2**) results in a net loss of three words and a sentence with no redundancy.

Original Sentence (a)		Original Sentence (b)		Revised Sentence (a)
Thomas Augst's article offers a personal perspective into the Temperance movement.	+	In Augst's article, he examines the literary rhetoric of the Washingtonian temperance leaders and authors.	=	Thomas Augst's article offers a personal perspective into the Temperance movement and examines the literary rhetoric of the Washingtonian temperance leaders and authors.

Example 2: Further combining the **Revised Sentence** from Example 1 with Sentence **(c)** from the original paragraph results in one compound/complex sentence that is less wordy overall and contains no redundancy.

Revised Sentence (a)		Original Sentence (c)		NEW Revised Sentence (a)
Thomas Augst's article offers a personal perspective into the Temperance movement and examines the literary rhetoric of the Washingtonian temperance leaders and authors.	+	Augst compares Washingtonian reformer rhetoric to the rhetoric of more traditional and religious reformers of the era.	=	Thomas Augst's article offers a personal perspective into the Temperance movement and examines the literary rhetoric of the Washingtonian temperance leaders and authors, comparing it to the rhetoric of more traditional and religious reformers of the era.

Example 3: Finally, combining Sentence **(d)** and **(e)** from the original paragraph gives us our second sentence in the Revised Paragraph of **Section 4**.

Original Sentence (d)		Original Sentence (e)		Revised Sentence (b)
One of the most important aspects of Augst's article is that Augst observes that the Washingtonians' original views of temperance were removed from religious, political, and ethnic ideologies.	+	Their motive for temperance was driven by an individual's want to become a clean, moral citizen that helps serve the community.	=	Augst observes that the Washingtonians' original motives for temperance were removed from religious, political, and ethnic ideologies, driven instead by the desire to become moral citizens who serve the community.

4. Revised Paragraph

(a) Thomas Augst's article offers a personal perspective into the Temperance movement and examines the literary rhetoric of the Washingtonian temperance leaders and authors, comparing it to the rhetoric of more traditional and religious reformers of the era. **(b)** Augst observes that the Washingtonians' original motives for temperance were removed from religious, political, and ethnic ideologies, driven instead by the desire to become moral citizens who serve the community. (Word Count: 67)

While a little on the short side, this new paragraph contains more direct, complex sentences free from the murk and muddle that wordiness and redundancy cause.

Section 5 (on the next page) is a practice passage full of wordiness and redundancy. The goal is to reduce the word count without changing the meaning or sacrificing any critical information. As a reminder, the steps are:

1. Identify redundancy and/or unnecessary words
2. Cross out these words/phrases/clauses
3. Combine sentences using **Section 3** as a guide
4. Re-read for fluency and comprehension

5. Practice Passage:

Walmart is well known in the North American continent and U.S. for being the nation's largest food retailer (Supermarket News). Since it is the nation's largest food retailer, its plan for promoting healthy diets would turn out to be very effective in fighting diseases such as obesity.

Walmart is well known through the nation. That is simply because it is known for having cheap prices and a wide range of choices for all goods. These goods do not just include foods, but it also has consumer goods such as clothing, pharmaceutical products, and finally electronics. Another factor that really assisted Walmart in getting where it is right now is the services it offers. These services include tire changing, photo help center, and the banking services that are placed in the Walmart store. These services make it easier for the consumer to shop at Walmart and make this store the one destination they always want to go for almost every necessity they need in life.

Statistics have proven that Walmart is the largest food retailer of the whole North American region (Supermarket News). Even though Walmart started in the U.S., soon afterwards it became a multinational firm that is now placed in more than 15 countries. Not only have talks that have been on TV stated that Walmart is the world's largest food retailer, but statistics have proved these statements. The statistics state and prove that Walmart is the world's biggest retailer with revenue of 405 billion dollars, followed by Carrefour with 124 billion dollars revenue. Walmart has 2737 stores in the U.S. and a total of 8100 placed in 15 different countries. There are 7.2 billion transactions per year in which Americans spent 36 million dollars in Walmart per hour, with a ratio of 8 cents Americans spent in U.S. stores is spent in this particular store. It is also for being the biggest company by number of employees, which sums up to a total of 2,100,000 workers consisting of both males and females. Since it contains this big amount of workers, then surely it owns a lot of assets. These assets consist of 147 distribution centers, 53,000 trailers, 7200 tractors and finally 7950 drivers. These facts are good enough to prove that Walmart is definitely the world's largest food supplier, including the U.S.