

Exercise 1: Identify which of the two pairs expresses characters as subjects and actions as verbs, and which is indirect with actions in nominalizations and characters often not in subjects. Then circle nominalizations and underline verbs.

1a. Some people argue that atmospheric carbon dioxide does not elevate global temperature.

1b. There has been speculation by educators about the role of the family in the improvement of educational achievement.

2a. Complaints by editorial writers about voter apathy rarely offer suggestions about dispelling it.

2b. Although critics claim that children who watch a lot of television tend to become less able readers, no one has demonstrated to be true.

3a. Many professional athletes fail to realize that they are unprepared for life after stardom because their teams protect them from the problems that the rest of us adjust to every day.

3b. Colleges have come to an understanding that yearly tuition increases are no longer possible because of strong resistance from parents to the soaring cost of higher education.

Exercise 2: Change passives to actives where appropriate and edit nominalizations to a more direct character-action style. Invent characters where necessary.

1. It is my belief that the social significance of smoking receives its clearest explication through an analysis of peer interaction among adolescents. In particular, studies should be made of the manner in which interactive behavior is conditioned by social class.

2. These directives are written in a style of maximum simplicity as a result of an attempt at more effective communication with employees with limited reading skills.

3. The ability of the human brain to arrive at solutions to human problems has been undervalued because studies have not been done that would be considered to have scientific reliability.