**Tips for Making Your Writing More “Sophisticated”**

1. Eliminate unnecessary prepositional phrases
   1. Instead of “desire of Gatsby for Daisy”----\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
   2. Instead of the “relationship of Nick and Jordan”----\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
2. Use active voice rather than passive
   1. Instead of “It is stated that…”----\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
   2. Instead of “Gatsby was shot…”---- \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
3. Combine sentences when possible
   1. Instead of “The author uses comparisons in both passages. He does this to…”

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1. State the effect on the audience more subtly—It isn’t necessary to constantly refer to the reader in your essay. Having you do that was a tool to get you thinking about the effect of the language. To get to the next level in your writing, you’ll want to take a more discreet approach.
   1. Clunkier: “Fitzgerald uses the imagery of the green light to symbolize Gatsby’s desire and make the reader understand the unattainability of his fantasy.”

Classier: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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1. Now let’s brainstorm some strong verbs that you can use in your writing:

**Things to Avoid:**

POWER VERBS! (Synonyms for “shows” or “gives off”)

MORE POWER VERBS! (Synonyms for “states” or “says”)

1. The words “a lot.” Suitable replacements: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
2. Beginning a sentence with:
   1. “This is”
   2. “It is”
   3. “Also”
   4. A conjunction (unless you have very good control of language and can use it effectively)
3. Using “tries,” “makes,” or “forces”
4. Present or past progressive tense
5. Instead of “is writing”----\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
6. Instead of “was experiencing”----\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
7. Overusing the word “where”

Instead of “Ruth describes a scene where she and Frances talk in the cemetery”

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1. Ending a sentence with a preposition

Instead of “This is what the author is writing for” \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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1. Using phrases like “I think,” “I feel,” “I believe,” “In my opinion,” “In conclusion,” etc.

The easy fix \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

1. Writing “would of” (Wrong. So wrong.) The correct version: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_