

Practice B: Cutting Clutter

The Paramedic Method

Use the Paramedic Method, developed by Richard Lanham in *Revising Pros*, to edit any kind of professional or academic writing. Editing your writing using the Paramedic Method will make your prose easier to read. Sentences that are easy to read are more persuasive and more user-centered.

1. Circle the prepositions (of, in, about, for, onto, into)
2. Draw a box around the "is" verb forms (am, is, are, was, were, be, being, been)
3. Ask, "Where's the action?"
4. Change the "action" into a simple verb
5. Move the doer into the subject (Who's kicking whom?)
6. Eliminate any unnecessary slow wind-ups
7. Eliminate any redundancies.

Using The Paramedic Method, revise these sentences to state their meaning in fewer words. Avoid passive voice, needless repetition, and wordy phrases and clauses. The first sentence has been done for you.

1. A lot of farmers in our area (are planning) to attend the meeting that (will be held) next Friday.

Many local farmers plan to attend next Friday's meeting.

2. Although Bradley Hall is regularly populated by students, close study of the building as a structure is seldom undertaken by them.
3. He dropped out of school on account of the fact that it was necessary for him to help support his family.
4. It is expected that the new schedule will be announced by the bus company within the next few days.
5. Trouble is caused when people disobey rules that have been established for the safety of all.
6. The subjects that are considered most important by students are those that have been shown to be useful to them after graduation.

