

Revising Sentences for Clarity



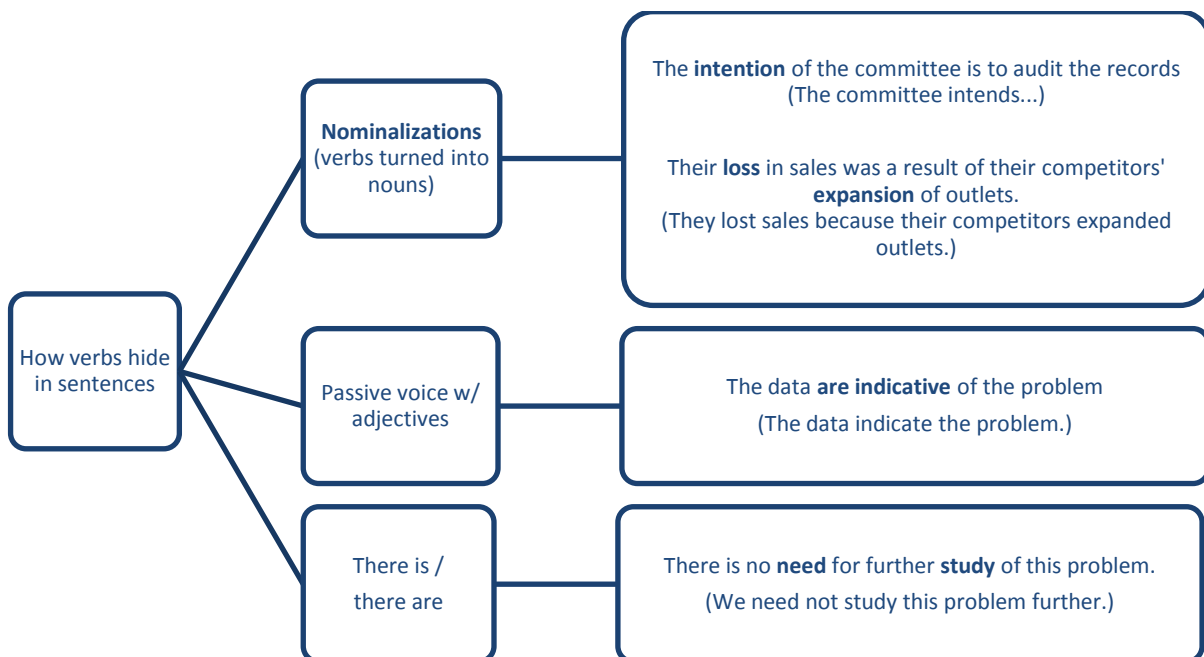
“The Federalists’ argument in regard to the destabilization of government by popular democracy was based on their belief in the tendency of factions to further their self-interest at the expense of the common good (29).”



“The Federalists argued that popular democracy destabilized government because they believed that factions tended to further their self-interest at the expense of the common good (29).”

When we compare the two sentences above, most readers feel sentence B is easier to read because it is more concrete, concise & coherent. Why? Because of the subjects & verbs:

	Whole Subject / Character(s)	Verb(s)
A	The Federalists’ argument in regard to the destabilization of government by popular democracy	was based
B	The Federalists popular democracy they factions	argued destabilized believed tended to further



Work Cited:

Williams, Joseph M. *Style: The Basics of Clarity and Grace*. Boston: Addison Wesley Longman, 2003.