

Chem 197
Fall 2019

informal writing assignment ii

The first draft of any essay is a mixture of strong sentences, perfectly fine sentences, and weak sentences. In some sections your message is clear and in other sections the reader becomes lost. We revise our essays to make them better, both at the level of individual sentences and in how your argument develops from paragraph-to-paragraph. For this assignment, return to the first draft of response to the prompt

Identify an object or an event from your childhood or adolescence that had an influence on your academic interests and, in approximately 250–500 words, describe the object and explain how it inspired your curiosity.

and revise it using Clark's first four tools: begin sentences with subjects and verbs, order words for emphasis, activate your verbs, and be passive-aggressive. Look at each sentence and identify the first subject and its verb. Did you use a strong verb? Is there a large gap between the subject and its verb? Did you overuse introductory phrases before the subject? Did you emphasize your most important point by placing it at the end of the sentence? Did you write in an active voice? Did you use the passive voice where it is more effective? Did you overuse the *to be* verbs?

Save your second draft in your Google Drive folder using *yourfirstname_iwai_draft1* as the filename. Your completed second draft is due by the end of the day on Sunday, September 1st. You can make other revisions as you work on this assignment—fixing spelling errors and adding more details are two examples—but make the revisions described above the main focus of your work.