

### writing exercise iii

As a group, consider each of the following prompts and be prepared to share your conclusions.

***tool 5: watch those adverbs***

Adverbs are qualifiers that modify verbs and adjectives, and adjectives are qualifiers that modify nouns. When used well, adverbs and adjectives make your reader take notice of your language; too often, however, we clutter our sentences with multiple adverbs and adjectives that try to compensate for weak adverbs, adjectives, verbs, and nouns. As you revise your work, try to eliminate weak adverbs or weak adjectives by using fewer and stronger words. Try your hand at these sentences by finding a better way to express the idea in *italics*.

- She remembers her childhood home as being *extremely nice*.
- He is *quite worried* about speaking in public.
- Many of us are *really ready* to begin the semester.

***tool 6: take it easy on the –ings***

Clark's message with this tool is that adding an –ing to a verb often weakens the verb: *suffered*, for example, is a stronger verb than *suffering*. Clark also draws attention to how adding an –ing to a verb can turn it into a noun, which requires us to find a new, often weaker verb. The use of –ing is one example of a broader problem of converting strong verbs into nouns with weak verbs, which is called nominalization. As you revise your writing, look for other common endings that convert strong verbs into nouns with weak verbs; here are a three more examples: –ion (decision instead of decide), –ence (interference instead of interfere), and –ent (agreement instead of agree). Try your hand at rewriting these sentences (*some examples adapted from an assignment developed by Linda C. Mitchell and Georgia Saratsiotis of the San José State University Writing Center*).

- Let's go swimming out to that rock.
- There was flooding in the lab when the hose came off the aspirator.
- Our presentation at the conference was on a new theory of light.
- The delay of sample collection was caused by the storm.