

## Advanced editing exercises and possible solutions

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*(Version at 16/10/08)*

These exercises usually do not contain grammatical errors but could be written more directly and concisely. The exercises were developed for use after the “Writing/Editing Skills for Research Students” workshops. Solutions are proposed but there are, of course, several versions that could arise from a more complex exercise. You will get better value out of attempting the exercises rather than just reading the solutions. Underline the key information, circle words that seem less important and look for repetition of words or ideas.

If you are a FBL or FCHS research student or staff member, I would be very pleased if you wanted to email your suggested solution and I will reply with any helpful comments that seem appropriate. (It may be useful to attempt the Introductory Writing Exercises (particularly if English is your second language)

<http://www.chs.ecu.edu.au/org/rhd/writing/documents/Introductory-Editing-Exercises.pdf>

and the Additional Editing Exercises <http://www.chs.ecu.edu.au/org/rhd/writing/documents/Additional-Editing-Exercises.pdf> before attempting these advanced exercises.

When editing, the aims are to:

- a) ensure economy and clarity (usually this involves reducing the number of words but, in some editing, it is necessary to add text to improve the clarity of the writing);
- b) produce text that can be read aloud easily; and
- c) not change the meaning (your Supervisor may feel the need to change the meaning of the text, however, this is not the Academic Writing Consultant’s role). (Not changing the meaning includes not eliminating any important content.)

1. The Self-Assessment System has shifted the emphasis of the Environmental Protection Authority of Taiwan (EPAT) from direct environmental monitoring towards intensive audit and investigation activities. Therefore, with the implementation of the Self-Assessment System, the environmental audit and investigation rate is expected to increase in order to ensure an effective level of deterrence for licensees. [2 sentences and 54 words.]

2. Australia has a rapidly growing number of viruses that affect fisheries and aquaculture (OIE, 2008). Along with other developed nations, such as Japan, the US and Norway, Australia's rapidly expanding viral diversity presents significant problems for and issues relevant to the future of the nation's seafood production (OIE, 2008). [2 sentences and 49 words.]
3. How effective are overseas-based telephone information centres for helping and informing Australian consumers? [13 words. This might be a title for a research paper.]
4. There is a clear need to be more sympathetic to the needs of those who produce rather than just move product through the supply chain. Indeed, the Naples Programme of Action goes further than this with calls for the overturning of the current economic order (Massey et al., 1992) in a bid to protect the rights of primary producers." [2 sentences and 59 words.]
5. The sentiment is echoed in other literature with Jones et al. (2000) also reiterating..". [14 words. This is meant to be from a Literature Review.]
6. The problems and complexities of the duality of doing postgraduate research that is applied but also attempts to make conceptual breakthroughs, as discussed by Albert (2000) who recognised that industry and academia can have different values, are evident within this project. [1 sentence and 41 words.]
7. A common strategy used by young homebuyers is to borrow the deposit but not inform the financial institution from which they want to borrow the rest of the money. Unfortunately, this strategy can lead to young homebuyers borrowing too much money and losing their properties if interest rates rise. [2 sentences and 49 words. Note repetitive use of "homebuyers", "strategy", "money" and "borrow"/"borrowing".]

8. The percentage composition method has been widely used by many researchers to analyse the gut contents of fish. A criticism of prior studies that used this method relates to the ‘independence’ problem (see Jones & Smith, 1988; Williams, 1992; Franklin, 2000; Derwent, 2001; Bass & Flinders, 2003). This problem can influence the issue of the validity of the statistical procedure of Analysis of Variance if that is applied to the data (Wynyard, 1996). [3 sentences and 73 words]
9. If there was no independence problem, three other types of statistical assumptions would have been pertinent to this stomach content analysis strategy, and which relate to normality, uniformity of variance, and fixed variables (Stanley, 1980). [35 words. This sentence follows the one in 8 above.]
10. A key challenge when teaching effective writing within this university to postgraduate research students, who need to be able to communicate in two conflicting styles, academic and popular, is evident in the paper by Conrad (2006). She recognised that having only a complex thesis title can inhibit communication with those outside the student’s specialised field, because of the problem of jargon. [2 sentences and 61 words]

**Possible solutions to editing exercises (there is more than one way to write!)**

1. The implementation of the Self-Monitoring System for licensees has allowed the Environmental Protection Authority of Taiwan (EPAT) to do less environmental monitoring and focus more on intensive audit and investigation activities that deter non-compliance. [34 words in 1 sentence.]
2. Along with other developed nations, such as Japan, the US and Norway, Australia’s rapidly expanding viral diversity presents significant problems for fisheries and aquaculture and could affect the nation’s future seafood production (OIE, 2008). [1 sentence and 34 words. Can “diversity” be seen to be equivalent to the “number of viruses”?]

3. Efficacy of offshore telephone information centres for Australians. [8 words. Would “Effectiveness” be less obscure than “Efficacy”? Perhaps not all “Australian consumers” are “Australian” i.e., they may only have residency status. Can “telephone information centres” be replaced with “telecentres”?]
4. We need to support producers more than other supply chain members. Indeed, the Naples POA wants the current economic order overturned to protect primary producers (Massey et al., 1992). [2 sentences and 29 words. Need to be familiar with POA as an abbreviation for Programme of Action. Can a PAO want?]
5. Jones et al. (2000) also emphasised....[5 words. It overcomes the problem of giving the same information several times. However, there is some loss of colour in this version and it is important to not make the writing style too predictable.]
6. This applied postgraduate research reflects the dual challenges of being useful to industry and making the conceptual breakthroughs valued by academia (Albert, 2000). [23 words. Is it clear that Albert wrote about the dual challenges rather than this applied postgraduate research project? ]
7. Unfortunately, many young homebuyers can lose their properties if interest rates rise and they had borrowed all of the purchase cost, including secretly obtaining a loan for the deposit. [1 sentence; 29 words; repetition of words overcome.]
8. The percentage composition method has been widely used to analyse the gut contents of fish, however, several authors have noted an independence problem (see Jones & Smith, 1988; Williams, 1992; Franklin, 2000; Derwent, 2001; Bass & Flinders, 2003) which affects the validity of applying ANOVA to the (Wynyard, 1996). [1 sentence and 50 words.]
9. The independence problem aside, three other types of statistical assumptions are pertinent to this content analysis strategy; normality, uniformity of variance, and fixed variables (Stanley, 1980). [1 sentence and 26 words. This sentence follows the one in 8 above.]
10. A key challenge in teaching effective writing styles to postgraduate research students at ECU is highlighted by their need for two contrasting thesis titles (Conrad, 2006); one is academic while the other allows broader communication by avoiding jargon. [1 sentence and 38 words]

### Paired editing exercises and possible solutions

1. The Self-Assessment System has shifted the emphasis of the Environmental Protection Authority of Taiwan (EPAT) from direct environmental monitoring towards intensive audit and investigation activities. Therefore, with the implementation of the Self-Assessment System, the environmental audit and investigation rate is expected to increase in order to ensure an effective level of deterrence for licensees. [2 sentences and 54 words.]

The implementation of the Self-Monitoring System for licensees has allowed the Environmental Protection Authority of Taiwan (EPAT) to do less environmental monitoring and focus more on intensive audit and investigation activities that deter non-compliance. [1 sentence and 34 words.]

2. Australia has a rapidly growing number of viruses than affect fisheries and aquaculture (OIE, 2008). Along with other developed nations, such as Japan, the US and Norway, Australia's rapidly expanding viral diversity presents significant problems for and issues relevant to the future of the nation's seafood production (OIE, 2008). [2 sentences and 49 words]

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3. How effective are overseas-based telephone information centres for helping and informing Australian consumers? [13 words. This might be a title for a research paper.]

Efficacy of offshore telephone information centres for Australians. [8 words. Would "Effectiveness" be less obscure than "Efficacy"? Perhaps not all "Australian consumers" are "Australian" i.e., they may only have residency status. Can "telephone information centres" be replaced with "telecentres"?]

4. There is a clear need to be more sympathetic to the needs of those who produce rather than just move product through the supply chain. Indeed, the Naples Programme of Action goes further than this with calls for the overturning of the current economic order (Massey et al., 1992) in a bid to protect the rights of primary producers.” [2 sentences and 59 words.]

We need to support producers more than other supply chain members. Indeed, the Naples POA wants the current economic order overturned to protect primary producers (Massey et al., 1992). [2 sentences and 29 words. Need to be familiar with POA as an abbreviation for Programme of Action. Can a PAO want?]

5. The sentiment is echoed in other literature with Jones et al. (2000) also reiterating..”. [14 words. This is meant to be from a Literature Review.]

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This applied postgraduate research reflects the dual challenges of being useful to industry and making the conceptual breakthroughs valued by academia (Albert, 2000). [1 sentence and 23 words. Is it clear that Albert wrote about the dual challenges rather than this applied postgraduate research project? ]

7. A common strategy used by young homebuyers is to borrow the deposit but not inform the financial institution from which they want to borrow the rest of the money. Unfortunately, this strategy can lead to young homebuyers borrowing too much money and losing their properties if interest rates rise. [2 sentences; 49 words; Note repetitive use of “homebuyer”, “strategy”, “money” and “borrow”/“borrowing”.]

Unfortunately, many young homebuyers can lose their properties if interest rates rise and they had borrowed all of the purchase cost, including secretly obtaining a loan for the deposit. [1 sentence and 29 words. Repetition of words was overcome.]

8. The percentage composition method has been widely used by many researchers to analyse the gut contents of fish. A criticism of prior studies that used this method relates to the ‘independence’ problem (see Jones & Smith, 1988; Williams, 1992; Franklin, 2000; Derwent, 2001; Bass & Flinders, 2003). This problem can influence the issue of the validity of the statistical procedure of Analysis of Variance if that is applied to the data (Wynyard, 1996). [3 sentences and 73 words]

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