

"...the secret of good writing is to strip every sentence to its cleanest components. Every word that serves no function, every long word that could be a short word, every adverb that carries the same meaning that's already in the verb, every passive construction that leaves the reader unsure of who is doing what- these are the thousand and one adulterants that weaken the strength of a sentence." (p. 6-7, *Zissner, W, On writing well: the classic guide to writing nonfiction, 2006, Harper Collins*)

and

"Few people realize how badly they write. Nobody has shown them how much excess of murkiness has crept into their style and how it obstructs that they are trying to say. If you give me an eight-page article and I tell you to cut it to four pages, you'll howl and say it can't be done. Then you'll go home and do it, and it will be much better. After that comes the hard part: cutting it to three." (p. 17 *Ibid.*)

Examples of culprits:

Qualifiers that are unnecessary (a little, sort of, a bit, very, much)

Adverbs that mean the same as the verb (smile happily)

Phrases that are overused: (in a sense, which is to say)

Adjectives that are redundant (small midget, angry frowning man, happy smiling bride)

A noun repeated that needs a synonym or a pronoun instead.

Entire sentences that repeat the previous sentence (this was a common mistake in the POP research paper)

Find and bracket out the clutter in these sentences:

He hurried rather quickly to get into the tall skyscraper before the beautiful fashion model disappeared completely from his eye sight.

The most complete answer to a question you need to reply to is the absolute truth without any lies.

The educated teacher asked the students, because the students were more uneducated than him, to find more interesting creative words for their undeveloped writing.