

*Exercises for Writing Workshop
SWIAF and SEIAF 2016 Joint Meeting
September 15, 2016*

Number the sentences below to construct a unified, cohesive paragraph.

_____ For example, examiners working on artificial intelligence patent applications and the applications they review undergo the least amount of supervisory review, in part because their experience allows them to work more efficiently and effectively.

_____ The number of examination tasks that an examiner is expected to perform is set based on the examiner's technology area and experience level.

_____ Examiners are rated based on their production, or the number of examination tasks they perform, among other factors.

_____ As examiners' experience level and tenure increase, the average number of hours they are allotted to work on each application and the level of review from their supervisors declines.

Revise the following sentences to minimize passive voice and maximize verb usage.

It has been shown by a few studies that there are differences in issued patents depending on the time taken by examiners to have an investigation of the technology and make their decisions about their patents.

In February 2005, a tool created by contractors began to be used by FEMA to provide assistance in its validation of the identity of applicants during the initial review of an application, thus resulting in the elimination of any wait that might be otherwise necessary for the validation of information of the applicant by another agency.

In general, the delegation of oversight and monitoring responsibilities has been achieved by SBA to its district offices. The first contact established by a business to the SBA happens at a district office, where paperwork is received by the staff. A combination of technical assistance and monitoring activities are provided by specialists. The awarding of a procurement, because of the delegation, is a time-consuming process, it was reported by officials at headquarters.

Review the paragraphs below multiple times, looking in turn for 1) topic sentences, 2) unified paragraphs, and 3) sentence issues. Specifically:

Do the paragraphs have topic sentences? If not, what should those topic sentences be?

Are paragraphs unified or do seemingly extraneous sentences undermine readability?

Should some sentences use more active voice, and more verbs?

An art museum is a business, often a big one, but a special kind. In the United States, almost all of them are tax-exempt, educational nonprofits, with unique privileges given in return for certain kinds of social value; in other countries, they are typically government agencies, though this difference in legal form has minimal effect on their behavior. In both cases, they get to spend tax money. Either public money is appropriated directly, or, in the American system, contributions to museums are tax-deductible, and each gift carries a public subsidy. Furthermore, museums are typically exempt from state and local taxes, even though they receive the usual services of the fire and police departments, sidewalks, and the like.

To think about how art museums could do their job better requires a better idea of what that job is. Museum mission statements are considerably varied. Most of these statements include descriptions of what museums undertake to do, but almost nothing about what they expect to accomplish for their audiences are contained in those statements.

The only art engagement that matters is created inside the head of viewers who make a combination of visual stimulus from an artist's work with a whole library of prior experiences when something presented as art is confronted by the viewer. Better presentation and installation from a museum, including lighting, air conditioning, and whether the work can be seen by viewers, would allow for viewers to better engage. There is also a need for more work to be shown by museums, and it should be free (or at least much cheaper) to gain admission. For example, the Met only shows less than half of its drawings by the artist Fragonard.