

USING POSITIVE SENTENCE STRUCTURE

Good writers make their sentences positive. That is, use the word NOT only to emphasize negative ideas.

All other syntactic structures should be positive (without NOT).

EX:

James did not like Katie's presentation. [negative]

James disliked Katie's presentation. [positive]

The project was not very productive. [negative]

The project wasted time. [positive]

Avoid Double Negatives. Negatives include: No, Not, Neither, Barely, Hardly, Never, None, Nothing, Scarcely.... Pairing any two of these words together in the context of a sentence is creating a double negative (a definite stylistic concern).

EX:

Jerry did not make no repairs to the car. [double negative]

Jerry made no repairs to the car. [positive]

Because they were cruel, I never liked none of her friends. [negative]

Because they were cruel, I never liked any of her friends. [positive]