

## PLACING IDEAS IN SIMILAR STRUCTURES

### ITEMS IN A SERIES

When writing, it is customary and useful to place ideas into similar structures for the reader (we often refer to this idea as parallelism).

One suggestion is to keep items in a series alike. Therefore, when listing elements, make sure everything is similar

EX:

Noun + Noun + Noun + Noun

Verb + Verb + Verb + Verb

Noun Phrase + Noun Phrase + Noun Phrase + Noun Phrase

Independent Clause + Independent Clause + Independent Clause + Independent Clause

And, so forth

Likewise, whatever you do to one item, consistent and do it to the others.

EX: (WORSE)

When I begin my vacation, I will travel by boat, plane, by taxi, and train.

EX: (BETTER)

When I begin my vacation, I will travel by boat, by plane, by taxi, and by train.

*Notice how the better sentence repeats elements to maintain a similar structure.*

Placing ideas in similar sentence structures in paragraphs can be equally valuable. Remember: Whatever you do to one item, you should do it to the others.

### SENTENCES IN PARAGRAPHS

Sometimes, you may borrow similar structures of sentences. You may repeat similar or identical elements for emphasis or for style. Note: Some instructors may count this use as “too repetitive.” Make sure to note that you are trying to use “similar structure” or parallelism.

EX:

Dana and Rick are having a grand opening for their restaurant. They hope to see many customers for the opening. They hope to see many people tasting their delicious entrees and deserts. They hope to see many people purchasing non-food items such as t-shirts, hats, and mugs as well. All-in-all, the opening will represent a starting point for their business.