**Radical Revision, fall 2013**

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Avoid Dangling Modifiers:

Ex 1: Portia rushed to the store loaded with cash to buy Guy’s birthday present.

Ex 2: Buffy called her adorable kitten opening the can of food and filled the bowl.

Ex 3: “The other day I shot an elephant in my pajamas. How he got in my pajamas I’ll never know.” [Groucho Marx]

Ex 4: Having finished dinner, the soccer match was turned on.

Avoid Passive Verb Constructions:

Ex 1: A decision was reached to postpone the vote.

Ex 2: The ornate chair was sat upon by Sylvester.

Ex 3: The implementation of the plan was successful.

Avoid Unclear Referents (especially “this”):

With the spread of globalized capitalism, American universities increasingly follow a corporate fiscal model, tightening budgets and hiring temporary contract employees as teachers. This has prompted faculty and adjunct instructors at many schools to join unions as a way of protecting job security and benefits.

Choose Action Verbs Over Forms of Be (especially “is”):

One difference between television news reporting and the coverage provided by newspapers is the time factor between the actual happening of an event and the time it takes to be reported. The problem is that instantaneous coverage is physically impossible for newspapers.