

Re-Writing to Improve Your Writing

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Examples of Re-Writing

High Level Ideas

- Writing takes effort
- Re-writing is necessary
- Practice by becoming a critical Reader

Example 1: “Omit Unnecessary Words”

So say Strunk and White in the classic handbook

Elements of Style, William Strunk Jr., E.B. White, and Roger Angell, Fourth ed.,
2000, Pearson Higher Education, ISBN: 020530902X

Rewrite to Simplify (1)

Before:

The velocity field in the quench tank is a central component in determining the convective heat transfer coefficient.

Rewrite to Simplify (2)

Before:

The velocity field in the quench tank is a central component in determining the convective heat transfer coefficient.

Rewrite to Simplify (3)

Before:

The velocity field in the quench tank is a central component in determining the convective heat transfer coefficient.

After:

The velocity field in the quench tank determines the convective heat transfer coefficient.

Example 2: Clarify

Long complex sentences are usually confusing, especially when the subject matter is new to the reader.

Solution: Replace complex sentences with a sequence of sentences that leads the reader toward a conclusion.

Rewrite to Clarify (1)

Before:

The profiles associated with the curved and S-shaped inlet as shown in Fig. 4 (a) and (b) respectively, display much flatter and uniform profiles in comparison to the rectangular inlet; however it can be seen that there are slight fluctuations in velocity associated with the curved inlet profile in comparison to the profile of the test section with the S-shaped inlet.

Rewrite to Clarify (2)

First: Start to fix the run-on sentence

The profiles associated with the curved and S-shaped inlet as shown in Fig. 4 (a) and (b) respectively

display much flatter and uniform profiles in comparison to the rectangular inlet; however it can be seen that there are slight fluctuations in velocity associated with the curved inlet profile in comparison to the profile of the test section with the S-shaped inlet.

After:

Figure 4 shows the velocity profiles in the test section for the three different inlets. display much flatter . . .

Rewrite to Clarify (3)

Next: Clarify the comparison

Figure 4 shows the velocity profiles in the test section for the three different inlets.

display much flatter and uniform profiles in comparison to the rectangular inlet

however it can be seen that there are slight fluctuations in velocity associated with the curved inlet profile in comparison to the profile of the test section with the S-shaped inlet.

After:

Figure 4 shows the velocity profiles in the test section for the three different inlets.

The velocity profiles for the curved inlet (Figure 4b) and S-shaped inlet (Figure 4c) are much flatter than the velocity profile for the rectangular inlet (Figure 4a).

Rewrite to Clarify (4)

Next: Clarify comparison of the two better profiles

Figure 4 shows the velocity profiles in the test section for the three different inlets. The velocity profiles for the curved inlet (Figure 4b) and S-shaped inlet (Figure 4c) are much flatter than the velocity profile for the rectangular inlet (Figure 4a).

however it can be seen that there are slight fluctuations in velocity associated with the curved inlet profile in comparison to the profile of the test section with the S-shaped inlet

After:

Figure 4 shows the velocity profiles in the test section for the three different inlets. The velocity profiles for the curved inlet (Figure 4b) and S-shaped inlet (Figure 4c) are much flatter than the velocity profile for the rectangular inlet (Figure 4a). The velocity profile for the S-shaped inlet is more uniform than the velocity profile for the curved inlet.

Rewrite to Clarify (5)

Finally: To avoid confusion, reiterate the key point

Figure 4 shows the velocity profiles in the test section for the three different inlets. The velocity profiles for the curved inlet (Figure 4b) and S-shaped inlet (Figure 4c) are much flatter than the velocity profile for the rectangular inlet (Figure 4a). The velocity profile for the S-shaped inlet is more uniform than the velocity profile for the curved inlet. Thus, of the three designs for wind tunnel inlets, the S-shaped inlet provides the most uniform velocity profile in the test section.

Rewrite to Clarify (6)

Before:

The profiles associated with the curved and S-shaped inlet as shown in Fig. 4 (a) and (b) respectively, display much flatter and uniform profiles in comparison to the rectangular inlet; however it can be seen that there are slight fluctuations in velocity associated with the curved inlet profile in comparison to the profile of the test section with the S-shaped inlet.

After:

Figure 4 shows the velocity profiles in the test section for the three different inlets. The velocity profiles for the curved inlet (Figure 4b) and S-shaped inlet (Figure 4c) are much flatter than the velocity profile for the rectangular inlet (Figure 4a). The velocity profile for the S-shaped inlet is more uniform than the velocity profile for the curved inlet. Therefore, of the three designs for wind tunnel inlets, the S-shaped inlet provides the most uniform velocity profile in the test section.

Final Thought

Start writing your final reports now!

You will need time to re-write.