

How to improve two common writing problems: The examples below show sentences with common writing problems, followed by suggestions for improvement.

Problem 1) *Little information is provided.*

In the next section of the article, the author goes on to describe how Mickey Mouse evolved.

Improvement: *Leave out unnecessary words and give a description.*

Mickey Mouse evolved as artists, over the course of many years, drew his eyes larger and larger.

Problem 2) *Little evidence of your understanding, including inadvertent plagiarism.*

a) *A direct quotation gives no evidence that you understand the idea.*

“Orchids manufacture their intricate devices from the common components of ordinary flowers.”

b) *Plagiarism is academically dishonest and does not show that you understand the idea.*

Orchids manufacture their intricate devices from the common components of ordinary flowers.

b) *Rearranging words and changing a few words is still plagiarism.*

Orchids manufacture, from the common components of flowers, their complex devices.

d) *Substituting synonyms often obscures the meaning.*

Orchids assemble their obscure plans from the general apparatus of average flowers.

Improvement: *Express the idea with different words (preferably simple) and a different sentence structure, including additional supporting details.*

In orchids, the usual flower parts, like petals, are modified into a variety of structures to attract pollinators.