**CLARITY PRACTICE**  
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**DOES MY DRAFT MAKE SENSE?**

**Revise for Clarity**

1) **Explicitly State Thesis and Roadmap**
   - Practice writing a potential thesis sentence:
     - So What?
   - Practice Roadmapping that Thesis for a 1000-word paper (general topic sentence outline below)
     - **Section I**
       - Topic Sentence:
       - Topic Sentence:
       - Topic Sentence:
     - **Section II**
       - Topic Sentence:
       - Topic Sentence:
       - Topic Sentence:
     - **Section III**
       - Topic Sentence:
       - Topic Sentence:
       - Topic Sentence:

2) **Follow Natural Order & Unite Ideas**
   
   *Which sentence comes first for clarity?*
   
   A. In 2016, the people in Caracas starved. Corruption can cause starvation.
   B. Corruption can be adjusted. For example, increasing transparency means less maneuverability for corrupt practices.
   C. *Enchufados* are military and civilian elites. Many *enchufados* support Maduro.
   D. NPS hosts students studying a diverse variety of topics. The Naval Postgraduate School (NPS) hosts many international students.
   E. In 2016, not even half of eligible voters voted in the U.S. presidential election. In 1920, women won the right to vote in the United States.
   F. I bought all the groceries I needed for the week. My groceries for this week include: wine, artichoke hearts, beets, and steaks.

   *Can you clarify any of the following by moving phrases?*
   
   A. Colonel Smith dispatched a telegram about the size of the advancing force to his commanding officer.
   B. In the aftermath of 9/11, the United States founded the Department of Homeland Security.
C. By 1890, among adults, half the men and a third of the women knew how to read in Kansas.

3) **Master Rules & Norms**

**Grammar Quick Check: Solid or Rule-Breakers (RB)?**

1. **Solid or RB?** Having finished my dinner, the waitress offered to bring out the dessert tray.
2. **Solid or RB?** For who am I holding this glass of wine?
3. **Solid or RB?** I cut down only the trees, which were marked with yellow ribbons.

**Grammar Quick Check: Solid or Rule-Breakers (RB)?**

1. **Solid or RB?** I walk to the beach because the sun shines.
2. **Solid or RB?** I walk to the beach; because the sun shines.
3. **Solid or RB?** Jesus’ followers wrote about their experiences.

**Confusing Words: Which is Correct?**

The dog ate its bone. The dog ate it’s bone.
Who’s shirt is this? Whose shirt is this?
Who goes there? Who goes their?
They’re walking down the street. There walking down the street.
Do you want to go, to? Do you want to go, too?
The tenants moved out quickly. The tenets moved out quickly.
Slow your roll! Slow your role!
You’re moving too slow for me. Your moving too slow for me.

* Insert affect/effect appropriately:

To truly __________ change in your writing, we advise considering the ______________ of your words on readers and reading out loud, both of which will likely positively ______________ your grades.

* Insert furthermore/further/farther appropriately:

I drove __________ down the coast in order to ______________ my understanding of the ocean. ______ ______ I wanted to understand the differences between one beach town and the next.

**Parallelism:**

*As clear as possible?* To succeed is opening a new opportunity.
*As clear as possible?* Her priorities were eating, drinking, and sleeping.
*As clear as possible?* Every single night she brushed her teeth, flossed her toes, and watered her squash.
*As clear as possible?* I like swimming better than to dive.
*As clear as possible?* She ate quickly, brushed her cat thoroughly, and read her book like a good little girl.

**CIRCLE WHICH CLARITY TOPICS MIGHT GET YOU, AND CHECK FOR THEM IN REVISION / POLISHING.**

**Does My Draft Make Sense?**

Explicit Thesis
Roadmap
Explicit Topic Sentences that Clearly Relate to Thesis
Larger context before details
Principle before example
Definition before use of term
Definition of acronym before use of acronym
Early before late (chronological)
Purpose of list before items in list
Unite Simple Ideas (watch misplaced phrases)

Spelling
Confusing words: which ones?
Capitalization
Italics
Underlining
Numbers
Acronyms
Parallelism
Breaking Grammar and Punctuation Rules

*Viewing the handout without the benefit of the in-person workshop? Make a coaching appointment to review, or email Instructor at cohunt@nps.edu with questions.*