

# Concision

## Neaten the Language:

### Filler Words:

- Words we usually say and hear in speech
- E.g. really, like, you know, etc.
- “It’s hard, you know, to explain your experiences.” “It’s hard to explain your experiences.”
- “It’s not like it’s really that easy.” “It’s not that easy.”

### Vague Expressions:

- Words used to make a statement vaguer or soften it
- E.g. kind of, around, sort of, stuff.
- “I’ll see you around ten tomorrow.” “I’ll see you at ten tomorrow.”
- “She’s kind of boring when she talks.” “She’s boring when she talks.”

### Dead Wood:

- Words that don’t add meaning
- “The library is located downtown.” “The library is downtown.”
- “Lemons are yellow in color.” “Lemons are yellow.”

### Flowery Language:

- Words that are over the top and tend to distract the reader instead of engaging them
- “The delightfully picturesque panorama invoked a tantalizingly refined smirk from the sophisticated aristocrat.”

### Redundant Words of Phrases:

- Repeats words, ideas, or concepts already stated
- “It was 2PM in the afternoon.” “It was 2PM.”
- “Their hands were as cold as ice.” “Their hands were cold.” or “Their hands were icy.”

## Other Tips:

- Cut your first paragraph
  - We tend to over explain or set up a ‘traditional’ introduction. This isn’t bad, it helps us get going when we draft, but cut it as you’re revising and see how it reads.
- Cut extra words, then rebuild using the Three Ps of Word Choice:
  - **Precision.**
  - **Power.**
  - **Poetics.**

## Resources:

- Use Espresso to analyze your writing style & the style of authors you admire
  - <http://espresso-app.org/>
- “Storyville: Avoiding Purple Prose in Your Fiction” by Richard Thomas
  - <https://litreactor.com/columns/storyville-avoiding-purple-prose-in-your-fiction>