

Lack of Sentence Variety

Readers who are trying to follow a difficult argument appreciate clear sentences. Sentences which repeat the same kind of structure soon bore their readers. Readers who are bored don't give your ideas the attention that they deserve. A sentence which is very different from others in the passage makes a desirable change.

All four sentences have a similar structure (technically, they are *complex*) and there's nothing wrong with them. They flow smoothly, because their ideas are connected: the last word of one sentence is repeated as the first one of the next sentence (a figure called *anadiplosis*) Such lock-step progress is clear, but it quickly gets predictable or mechanical.

Variations

- *Readers who are trying to follow a difficult argument appreciate clear sentences. Sentences which repeat the same kind of structure soon bore their readers. Readers who are bored don't give your ideas the attention that they deserve. Break the pattern.*

A distinct change of sentence structure will snap them back to attention, and will also highlight a shift of thought or a contrast.

- *Readers who are trying to follow a difficult argument appreciate clear sentences. Sentences which repeat the same kind of structure, however, soon bore their readers, who won't give your ideas the attention that they deserve. Changing the structure is a good idea.*

This variation is not quite so dramatic: the sentences have been combined so that no two have the same structure. There are many possibilities of rearranging these ideas so they don't sound so predictable.