

RATIOCINATION

Step 1: Circle every “be” verb you can find in your paper with a red pen. When you finish, count the number of “be” verbs and write the number at the top of your paper. When you revise your paper, cut this number in half.

→ be being been is am are was were

Step 2: Change the beginning of your sentences. Using your blue pen, put a box around the first word of every sentence in your paper. Do many of your sentences start with the same word? <ex: I, So, When, Then, or My> As a rule, use a word only twice at the beginning of your sentences in an essay.

Step 3: With your red pen, put an X over “boring” words and replace them with more vivid words. Cross out:
very got get stuff so then well

Step 4: Get out a dictionary and look up words that you don’t know how to spell. Don’t depend on spell check if you’re typing. Ask an adult to read over your paper for misspelled words.