

## **Style Trick: The Paramedic Method**

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### **The Paramedic Method**

This is a method for simplifying and clarifying your sentences.

1. Circle the prepositions (*of, in, about, for, onto, into*)
2. Draw a box around the "is" verb forms
3. Ask, "Where's the action, and who's taking it?" ("Who is kicking whom?")  
Move the actor into the subject.
4. Change the action into a simple verb
5. Eliminate any unnecessary slow wind-ups

**Example:** The point I wish to make is that the employees working at this company are in need of a much better manager of their money.

→ Who's the actor? *Employees* are the main actors.

→ What is the action? Employees *need*

→ Slow windup? *The point I wish to make is that...*

→ Any other unnecessary words? *much* better (why not just "better"?)

**Revised sentence:** This company's employees need a better money manager.

### **Sentences for Revision**

1. It is widely known that the engineers at Sandia Labs have become active participants in the Search and Rescue operations in most years.

2. Their motives were applauded by us, but their wisdom was doubted.