Incorrect: When writing a proposal, an original task is set for research [Who is writing a proposal?]

Revised: When writing a proposal, a scholar sets an original task for research.

Incorrect: Many tourists visit Arlington National Cemetery, where veterans and military

personnel are buried every day from 9:00 a.m. until 5:00 p.m.

Revised: Every day from 9:00 a.m. until 5:00 p.m., many tourists visit Arlington National

Cemetery, where veterans and military personnel are buried.

4. Faulty Parallelism. Be sure you use grammatically equal sentence elements to express two or more matching ideas or items in a series.

Incorrect:

Revised: winning the election, enacting a national health

program, and improving the educational system.

Incorrect: Some critics are not so much opposed to capital punishment as postponing it for so long.

Revised: Some critics are not so much opposed to sentencing convicts to capital

punishment as they are to postponing executions for so long.

5. Unclear Pronoun Reference. Pronouns must clearly refer to definite referents [nouns]. Use it, they, that, these, those, and which carefully to prevent confusion.

Incorrect: Enstein was a brilliant mathematician. This is how he was able to explain the

workings of the universe.

Revised: Enstein, who was a brilliant mathematician, used his quantitative ability to

explain the workings of universe.

Incorrect: Because Senator Martin is less interested in the environment than in economic

development, she sometimes neglects it.

Revised: Because of her interest in economic development, Senator Martin sometimes

neglects the environment.

6. Pronoun Agreement. Be sure that each pronoun agrees in number (singular or plural) with the noun to which it refers (its antecedent or referent).

Incorrect: When a candidate runs for office, they must expect to have their personal life

scrutinized.

Revised: When candidates run for office, they must expect to have their personal lives

scrutinized.

Incorrect: everyone needs to consider the relationship of their house to the surrounding community. Revised: everyone needs to consider the relationship of his or her house to the surrounding community. 7. Incorrect Pronoun Case. Determine whether the pronoun is being used as a subject, object, or possessive in the sentence, and select the pronoun form to match. Incorrect: he and President Kennedy. Revised: ideological conflict between him and President Kennedy. Incorrect: Because strict constructionists recommend fidelity to the Constitution as written, no one objects more than them to judicial reinterpretation. Revised: Because strict constructionists recommend fidelity to the Constitution as written, no one objects more than they [object] to judicial reinterpretation. 8. Omitted Commas Use commas to signal nonrestrictive or nonessential material to prevent confusion, and to indicate relationships among ideas and sentence parts. Incorrect: When it comes to eating people differ in their tastes. Revised: When it comes to eating, people differ in their tastes. Incorrect: The Huns who were Mongolian invaded Gaul in 451. Revised: adds information but does not change the core meaning of the sentence because Huns were a Mongolian people; it is therefore nonrestrictive or nonessential and should be set apart with commas.] 9. Superfluous Commas. Unnecessary commas make sentences difficult to read. Incorrect: Field trips are required, in several courses, such as, botany and geology. Revised: Field trips are required in several courses, such as botany and geology. Incorrect: Revised: 10. Comma Splice. Do not link two independent dauses with a comma (unless you also use a

coordinating conjunction and, or, but, for, nor, so yet). Instead use a period or semicolon, or rewrite

the sentence.

Incorrect: product was one third that of France, by the late

1970s it was larger than the GNPs of France and Britain combined.

Revised:

1970s it was larger than the GNPs of France and Britain combined.

Incorrect: Diseased coronary arteries are often surgically bypassed, however half of bypass

grafts fail within ten years.

Revised: Diseased coronary arteries are often surgically bypassed; however, half of bypass

grafts fail within ten years.

11. Apostrophe Errors. Apostrophes indicate possessives and contractions but not plurals. Caution: its, your, their, and whose are *possessives*