

## 2.1 Characteristics - Style Statistics

The Style Statistics analysis provides you with information that enables you to consider the word, sentence, and document characteristics of your composition. As you compare your statistical characteristics with the model given in the STEPS program "Characteristics - Style Statistics" or the model that your instructor has established, differences between your statistics and the model will guide you in making specific kinds of revisions. As you revise and rerun the analysis, you will actually see the measure of the changes that you make in your writing. In addition to seeing the changes in the statistics, you will become more aware of the positive effect those changes have on the quality of your composition.

### More Information

When you need to revise to bring your statistics in line with your instructor's requirements, you will find this order quite efficient.

Original: A white picket fence can **BE** seen further on. The picket fence **IS** near the base of the north side of the knoll. On the other side of the fence **IS** where civilization begins.

Sentence 1: 9 words Sentence 2: 14 words Sentence 3: 11 words  
All simple sentences. Subject openers: 66% *To Be* verbs: 3

First, eliminate *To Be* verbs.

One can see a white picket fence further on. The picket fence stands near the base of the north side of the knoll. On the other side of the fence, civilization begins.

Next, combine to create complex sentences.

One can see a white picket fence, which stands near the base of the north side of the knoll, further on. On the other side of the fence, civilization begins.

Then, increase the number of non-subject openers.

Further on, one can see a white picket fence, which stands near the base of the north side of the knoll. On the other side of the fence, civilization begins.

Sentence 1: 21 words Sentence 2: 9 words

One complex sentence. One simple sentence. Subject openers: 0% *To Be* verbs: 0

### Suggested Style Scores -

#### **Sentences**

Number of Sentences:	Depends on project
Average sentence length (words):	18 - 26
Percentage of sentences 5 or more words shorter than your average sentence length:	More than 30%
Percentage of sentences 10 or more words longer than your average sentence length:	More than 15%
Percentage of simple or compound sentences:	Less than 50%
Percentage of complex or compound/complex sentences:	50% - 70%

#### Verbs:

Percentage of the verbs that are "to be" verbs:	Less than 25%
Percentage of the verbs that are passives (non-infinitives):	Less than 10%
Percentage of nominalizations (noun forms of verbs):	Less than 3%

**Sentence Beginnings**

Percentage of sentences that begin with subjects: Less than 75%

**Readability Scores:**

The formulae used to create readability scores can be found at [www.writersworkbench.com](http://www.writersworkbench.com) by clicking on the ?Support button toward the top of the homepage.

**The statistics for your composition -**

**Sentences**

Number of sentences: 43	Average sentence length (words):	18.9	
Percentage of sentences 5 or more words shorter than your average sentence length:		23%	(10)
Percentage of sentences 10 or more words longer than your average sentence length:		12%	(5)
Percentage of sentence types:			
Simple: 51% (22)	Compound: 2% (1)		
Simple or compound:		53%	(23)
Complex: 40% (17)	Compound-Complex: 7% (3)		
Complex or Compound-Complex:		47%	(20)

**Verbs**

Percentage of the verbs that are "to be" verbs:	30%	(27)
Percentage of the verbs that are passives (non-infinitives):	5%	(4)
Percentage of nominalizations (noun forms of verbs):	3.56%	(29)

**Sentence Beginnings**

Percentage of sentences that begin with subjects:		
Noun 12% (5)	Pronoun 12% (5)	Possessive 2% (1)
Adjective 2% (1)	Article 26% (11)	Total subject beginnings: 53%
Percentage of sentences that begin with non-subjects:		
Preposition 21% (9)	Adverb 9% (4)	Verb 2% (1)
Subordinate Conjunction 2% (1)	Conjunction 0% (0)	
Expletives 12% (5)	Other 0% (0)	Total non-subject beginnings: 47%

**Other Information**

Number of words: 814	Average word length: 4.73
Readability scores:	
(Kincaid) 9.9 (Automated) 10.3 (Coleman-Liau) 10.5 (Flesch) 10.4 (58.2)	