Sentence Variety

Having the same type of sentences repeating over and over does not make for good writing. Instead, try varying the way sentences start and flow.

Sentence Openings
If several sentences start with *The, It, This, or I*, the writing becomes stale for the reader. Having a variety of sentence starters solves this problem.

Original Sentence: The biggest coincidence that day happened when David and I ended up sitting next to each other at the Super Bowl.

Possible Revisions:
1. Coincidentally, David and I ended up sitting right next to each other at the Super Bowl.
2. In an amazing coincidence, David and I ended up sitting next to each other at the Super Bowl.
3. Sitting next to David at the Super Bowl was a tremendous coincidence

(Example sentences from Purdue OWL)

Sentence Length
The same issue occurs when sentences are all the same length. Sentences that are all short or long in length become monotonous. Take for example this quote by author Gary Provost:

“This sentence has five words. Here are five more words. Five-word sentences are fine. But several together become monotonous. Listen to what is happening. The writing is getting boring. The sound of it drones. It’s like a stuck record. The ear demands some variety. Now listen. I vary the sentence length, and I create music. Music. The writing sings. It has a pleasant rhythm, a lilt, a harmony. I use short sentences. And I use sentences of medium length. And sometimes, when I am certain the reader is rested, I will engage him with a sentence of considerable length, a sentence that burns with energy and builds with all the impetus of a crescendo, the roll of the drums, the crash of the cymbals—sounds that say listen to this, it is important.”

Don’t be afraid to experiment with your writing! Changing sentences around and trying new things will add life to any piece of writing.

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