



Sentences with Substance

Don't Stall Out on the Paper Highway



Sentences Without Substance

What is a sentence?

What should a sentence have?

How can YOU write strong sentences?

Write specific sentences.

Think of your argument as a vehicle moving from point A (the statement of your argument) to point B (a reader convinced of your argument).

You should always be moving forward.

Sentences without substance are like a stalled out car.

There might be words, but you're not going anywhere.





Does this sentence have substance?

The movie has interesting and beautiful visuals.



How about this sentence?

The movie does a wonderful job of teaching the audience how to relate to certain things in the world. This is a beautiful piece of work because the movie combines many different beautiful visuals in order to get a sense of feeling conveyed to the audience.



Which Sentence is Most Substantial?

1. *Black Panther*, through the lucid dichotomy of wonderment and very intense action scenes and incredible mythos, makes a rush in the moviegoer's heart never before seen to moviegoers anywhere ever at any point in human history.
2. A jolt of a movie, *Black Panther* creates wonder with great flair and feeling partly through something Hollywood rarely dreams of anymore: myth.
3. The wonder of *Black Panther* is something Hollywood rarely does anymore.

from: https://www.nytimes.com/2018/02/06/movies/black-panther-review-movie.html?referrer=google_kp



What needs to change?

The movie can be analyzed visually. We see a lot in the setting of Wakanda that illuminates how race differs from how we see race in the real world. The lucid dichotomy of future and fantasy shows that there is no strict binary.



What makes this substantial?

Part of the movie's pleasure and its ethos — which wends through its visuals — is how it dispenses with familiar either/or divides, including the binary opposition that tends to shape our discourse on race. Life in Wakanda is at once urban and rural, futuristic and traditional, technological and mystical. Spaceships zoom over soaring buildings with thatched tops; a hover train zips over a market with hanging woven baskets. In one of the most striking locales, an open-air throne room is horizontally lined with suspended tree limbs, creating a loose pattern that pointedly blurs the divide between the interior and exterior worlds and is echoed by the fretwork in costumes and other sets.

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Tips for Substantial Sentences

- “Use the most precise word you can think of to avoid vague language. Verb everything. Hone in on one specific detail and visual.
- “Avoid empty words like “really,” “very,” and “interesting.”
- “Keep asking yourself the questions “how” and “why” to inspire more specific language.



Final Thoughts

- Challenge yourself to meet assignment length requirements by expanding your ideas or going into more detail with your analysis of a text rather than writing extra sentences to fill the page.
- Page requirements are meant to indicate the breadth and depth necessary to fulfill the assignment goals.