

# **RULES FOR WRITING**

- I. Show don't tell
- II. Use details
- III. Date the entry
- IV. Use strong verbs
- V. Use BE verbs sparingly  
(is, are, am, was, were, be, being, been)
- VI. Vary sentence structure
- VII. Use 5 senses
  - a. see
  - b. hear
  - c. taste
  - d. touch
  - e. smell

**Clause = a group of words containing a subject and a verb**

**Two types of clauses:**

**Independent = a complete sentence**

**Dependent = not complete; can't stand alone**

**These AAAWWUBBIS words introduce dependent clauses.**

**AAAWWUBBIS**

**A...after**

**A...although**

**A...as**

**W...while**

**W...when**

**U...until**

**B...before**

**B...because**

**I.....if**

**S....since**

**These FANBOYS words or a semi-colon join two independent clauses.**

**FANBOYS**

**For**

**And**

**Nor**

**But**

**Or**

**Yet**

**So**

**;**

**COMMA RULES**

**IC = Independent clause**

**DC = dependent clause**

**DC, IC.**

**(After I ate dinner, I watched TV.)**

**IC+DC = no comma**

**(I watched TV after I ate dinner.)**

**IC, and IC.**

**(I ate dinner, and I watched TV.)**

## **Suggestions:**

- 1) Use BE verbs sparingly: is, are, am, was, were
- 2) SHOW don't TELL. That means use details not generalities
- 3) Let the readers of your essays know who you are. Write with feeling, not just facts, and reveal who you are. Show a real person, not just a list of facts.
- 4) Address the question exactly. Don't just give information about the subject.

The question asked, "Have you become aware of significant needs . . ."  
You must SHOW your coming to awareness and how you learned of significant needs.

- 5) Don't think about the readers of these essays and try to impress them. Let them see what a thoughtful, feeling, aware human being you are. They want to KNOW you.
- 6) Be careful of beginning too many sentences with "I". Find more interesting ways to begin your sentences.
- 7) Believe in yourself and that you have so many great traits to offer BYU. Show them.

## **SUGGESTIONS:**

- 1) Begin the essay with a strong first sentence that uses a strong verb.
- 2) Use **DETAILS** about your family: how many kids, how old and where you are in the line up.
- 3) Kill empty words.
- 4) **SHOW DON'T TELL!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!**
- 5) Focus on these words in the essay question:  
“Have **YOU BECOME AWARE** of **SIGNIFICANT NEEDS**” and “Explain **HOW YOU** have **WORKED TOWARD** meeting these needs.”
- 6) Vary your sentence structure so it doesn't become too simple and predictable.
- 7) Show your heart and feelings, not just facts. Remember the committee wants to **KNOW** you, how you think, observe, prove the question. Show your heart, not just your cleverness in writing.