**Second tutorial writing task**

title: “**Think like a mean marker**”

subtitle: “Remove distractions from your writing.”

description: This task helps you think more about the person who is reading your work. You will practice thinking like a very cynical marker and discover how unnecessary phrases or poorly worded sentences can distract from the point the writer is making.

week: 16

categories: [Writing]

reading-time: rough estimate in minutes

lead-image



Photo by [JESHOOTS.COM](https://unsplash.com/@jeshoots?utm_content=creditCopyText&utm_medium=referral&utm_source=unsplash) on [Unsplash](https://unsplash.com/photos/woman-biting-pencil-while-sitting-on-chair-in-front-of-computer-during-daytime--2vD8lIhdnw?utm_content=creditCopyText&utm_medium=referral&utm_source=unsplash)

video explainer (mp4 video or similar, explains the whole task, can be just a screen cap)

**We love clear, concise writing, like you practiced in the first Writing exercise. In this exercise, we want you to get inside the head of the meanest marker you can imagine. This marker has already marked a big stack of coursework. They are tired and grumpy. They have just picked up an essay that contains some of their pet hates. We’d like you to have some fun expressing their frustration. We would like you to act as a super-critical marker – Professor Perfect - and insert your thoughts about the writing. Professor Snippy has provided an example.**

This is the writing that Prof Snippy is marking:

Since the time of evolution a plethora of research has shown that cows like grass. The first person to research the food preferences of cows was Bloggs (2014), who found that they chose grass more often than baked beans. It is therefore clear that cows like grass.

Prof Snippy has inserted their thoughts while reading it:

Since the time of evolution (What, has evolution stopped?) a plethora of research (How much is a plethora? Does the quantity matter?) has shown that cows like grass. The first person (I think I read an earlier study. Maybe this was the first one the student has heard of. Should I check?) to research the food preferences of cows was Bloggs (2014), who found that they chose grass more often than baked beans. It is therefore clear (It’s not clear to me. Choosing grass doesn’t mean cows like it. Maybe they just don’t like baked beans) that cows like grass.

This is the writing that Professor Perfect (that’s you!) is marking. Copy it into a file, fill in the blanks with your thoughts, and upload it.

An amazingly vast array of research (\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_) has found affects (\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_) of smoking on health (Pickle, 1990) (\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_). One study found that as many as 50% of all smokers die (\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_). Another study tested if quitting smoking reduced death rates but unfortunately its results were insignificant (\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_). Some research has looked into genetic factors associated with smoking death rates (\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_). We looked for research into gender differences and smokers’ health but there was none, therefore there is a gap in the literature (\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_) and further research is needed on this fascinating topic (\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_).

Extension

This book has lots of useful advice on how to write clearly about psychology. Search Primo to find the library’s online copies and start reading:

Dunn, D. S. (2013). *A short guide to writing about psychology*. Pearson.