Lecture #14

Milan Tofiloski

Simon Fraser University

Writing has laws of perspective, of light and shade just as painting does, or music. If you are born knowing them, fine. If not, learn them. Then rearrange the rules to suit yourself.

Truman Capote

Monotony

Many rivers flow out to sea. They take the most direct route. They flow quickly down the sides of mountains. They flow more slowly on the flat terrain.

Many rivers flow out to sea. They take the most direct route. They flow quickly down the sides of mountains. They flow more slowly on the flat terrain.

Many rivers flow out to sea. **They** take the most direct route. **They** flow quickly down the sides of mountains. **They** flow more slowly on the flat terrain.

Many rivers **flow** out to sea. **They** take the most direct route. **They** **flow** quickly down the sides of mountains. **They** **flow** more slowly on the flat terrain.

Many rivers **flow out to sea**. **They** take the most direct route. **They flow** quickly **down the sides of mountains**. **They flow** more slowly **on the flat terrain**.

Write each sentence on its own line.

Many rivers flow **out to sea**.
They take the most direct route.
They flow quickly **down the sides of mountains**.

They flow more slowly **on the flat terrain**.

Write each sentence on its own line.

Many rivers flow **out to sea**.
They take the most direct route.
They flow quickly **down the sides of mountains**.

They flow more slowly **on the flat terrain**.

Sentences with similar length
contribute to monotony.

Write each sentence on its own line.

Many rivers flow **out to sea**.
They take the most direct route.
They flow quickly **down the sides of mountains**.

They flow more slowly **on the flat terrain**.

Identical sentence structure
contributes to monotony.

Indent sentences that elaborate on information from previous sentences.

Many rivers flow **out to sea**.
 They take the most direct route.
  They flow quickly **down the sides of mountains**.
   They flow more slowly **on the flat terrain**.

Many rivers flow out to sea.

They take the most direct route,

flow quickly down the sides of the mountains,

flow more slowly on the flat terrain.

Original

Many rivers flow out to sea. They take the most direct route. They flow quickly down the sides of the mountains. They flow more slowly on the flat terrain.

Rewrite

Many rivers flow out to sea. They take the most direct route, flowing quickly down the sides of mountains and more slowly on the flat terrain.

+ Many rivers flow out to sea.

    ...

+ Many rivers flow out to sea.

  ...

Does this look familiar?

+ Many rivers flow out to sea.

  ...

      Does this look familiar?

Code folding!

Many rivers flow out to sea.
   They take the most direct route,
      flow quickly down the sides of the
mountains,
      flow more slowly on the flat terrain.

The **beauty** of *programming* (and *poetry*)!
Structure is **explicit** & has a **functional purpose**.