

Writing and Editing: Word Choice and Word Order

Provider: Coursera – Stanford University

Completion Date: September 9, 2025

Overview:

This course focused on the impact of word choice and sentence structure in scientific and technical writing. It guided learners through the process of selecting clear, strong, and concise language to improve readability and precision. Emphasis was placed on avoiding ambiguity, redundancy, and jargon, while reinforcing active voice, subject-verb proximity, and sentence flow.

Key Topics Covered:

- Eliminating unnecessary words
- Choosing precise and vivid language
- Clarifying sentence meaning
- Subject–verb agreement and placement
- Avoiding noun stacks and weak verbs
- Improving flow through sentence rhythm and variation

Practical Application:

This course helped refine my editing skills by identifying and correcting common writing flaws. I applied these lessons directly to real assignments and previous portfolio documents, enhancing clarity and overall professional tone. The editing techniques are now part of my regular writing process, especially when preparing technical documentation, GitHub READMEs, and course summaries.

Personal Reflection:

This was one of the most useful writing classes I've taken. The instructor's breakdown of poorly written vs. revised examples was practical and easy to follow. I now pause before hitting submit or publish, double-checking my phrasing, verb choices, and whether each sentence actually says what I intended. It sharpened my attention to detail and reinforced habits that align with my technical writing and cybersecurity communication goals.