

## Exercise—Previously On (Week 3)

Take out your notebook and write down what you remember about the concepts covered in earlier sessions.

- Syntax
  - Animal Farm
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### Previously On (Week 3 Reflection)

Syntax is word order, and small shifts can completely change meaning or emphasis.

The Animal Farm Principle reminds me that not all hours of the day are equal, and that I should reserve my best ones for my most important work.

## Exercise—Good Sentences (Criminal Law)

Same drill as in the previous weeks. Select something to read from the options below and then write out your favorite sentence.

### Option #1

Choose something from the [Criminal Law](#) section of the [Good Sentences](#)\* library. Here are a few to consider.

- [It Will Look Like a Sunset](#) by Kelly Sundberg (*Guernica*, 2014) [Note: This essay contains vivid descriptions of domestic violence and may not be suitable for all readers.]
- [The Crooked Ladder](#) by Malcolm Gladwell (*New Yorker*, 2014)
- [A Record Exec's Crusade for Justice](#) by Alex Morris (*Rolling Stone*, 2020)

\*The Good Sentences library was originally created for University of Michigan students, so there may be some pieces that you can't access unless you are a student enrolled in a program there. But click around. There is plenty of stuff that is available to everybody.

### Option #2

Choose something from the May 2019 issue of the [Good Sentences monthly email](#).

### Option #3

Choose something from this list of book excerpts.

- [In Cold Blood](#) by Truman Capote (1965)
- [The New Jim Crow](#) by Michelle Alexander (2010)
- [Just Mercy](#) by Bryan Stevenson (2014)
- [Ghettoside](#) by Jill Leovy (2015)

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Just Mercy by Bryan Stevenson:

"We are all broken by something. We have all hurt someone and have all been hurt. We all share the condition of brokenness even if our brokenness is not equivalent."

The quote reflects the Rule of Three through a layered progression: shared brokenness, shared harm, and shared identity. The repetition of "we all" unifies the structure, while the emotional depth increases across the three sentences. It builds on rhythm and resonance, turning a personal truth into a collective one.

## Exercise—Takeaways (Week 3)

In your own notebook or workbook, explain what you just learned about the following three concepts:

- Studio Time
  - The Rule of Three
  - (from Week 1) Errors and Insights
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### Studio Time

I've learned that "Studio Time" is about deliberately setting aside space to practice refine writing. It encourages experimentation without fear of being wrong and promotes creative exploration. It mirrors how artists or musicians hone their craft, focused time for building skill through repeated effort.

### The Rule of Three

The rule of Three makes writing more rhythmic, memorable, and persuasive. Whether in a sentence, structure, or series of idea, grouping things in three tends to feel balanced and satisfying. I've seen how this technique improves emphasis and impact, especially when used with parallel structure or repetition.

### Errors and Insights

From week 1, I learned that mistakes in writing can be valuable. Reviewing errors, whether grammatical, structural, or stylistic, can offer insights that improve clarity and professionalism. The goal isn't to avoid all errors immediately, but to use them to understand patterns and strengthen my control over language.