Written Communication: Crafting Varied and Impactful Sentences

Course Description
This eight week course investigates the relationship between structure and meaning in written English sentences.

Course Objectives
In this course, students review the fundamentals of English sentence grammar within a cohesive form/function framework and learn to manipulate sentence structure to improve information flow, increase variety, and hone focus.

Student Learning Outcomes
After the course, students will be able to:

1. Identify and control essential grammatical forms and functions, including:
   a. Grammatical Forms
      i. Parts of speech and phrase types (e.g. nouns, verbs, noun phrases, prepositional phrases)
      ii. Clause types (e.g. independent clauses and -ing clauses)
   b. Grammatical Functions (e.g. subject, direct object, adjunct)
2. Determine constituency of syntactic structures—that is, the internal hierarchy of clauses and phrases
3. Recognize verb types and the selectional restrictions of verbs
4. Identify thematic roles in sentences (e.g. agent, theme, recipient, locative)
5. Apply techniques to improve information flow (e.g. managing the position of multiple adjuncts, controlling theme/rheme patterns, applying the principle of end weight)
6. Demonstrate their understanding of the above fundamentals by editing their own writing.

Required materials
- Access to Canvas
- Access to Zoom

Recommended materials
- A Student’s Grammar of the English Language by Sidney Greenbaum and Randolph Quirk (ISBN 0-582-05971-2)