

Recurrence and variety

Which one is better? Why

The Art Cinema is a movie theater in Hartford. Its speciality is showing foreign films. The theater is rated quite high as to the movies it shows. The movies are considered to be good at. (Student)

The Smith disclosures shocked President Harding not into political housecleaning but into personal reform. The White House poker parties were abandoned. He told his intimates that he was "off liquor." Nan Button [Harding's mistress] had already been banished to Europe. His nerve was shaken. He lost his taste for revelry. The plans for the Alaska trip was radically revised. Instead of an itinerant whoopee, it was now to be a serious political mission. (Samuel Hopkins Adams)

Revision of the first sentence

The Art Cinema, a movie theater in Hartford, specializes in foreign films. It is noted for the high quality of its films; in fact, many people consider them good art.

Why is the revision better?

Changing sentence length and pattern

From the beginning she had known what she wanted, and proceeded single-minded, with the force of a steam engine towards her goal. There was never a moment's doubt or regret. She wanted the East, and from the moment she set eyes on Richard Burton, with his dark Arabic face, his "questing panther eyes," he was, for her, that lodestar East, the embodiment of all her thoughts. Man and land were identified. (Lansley Blanch)

Fragments

Sam steals like this because he is a thief. Not a big thief. He tried to be a big thief once and everybody got mad at him and made him go away to jail. He is strictly a small thief, and he only steals for his restaurant.

Rhetorical Questions

Varied openings

Interrupted movement

I had halted on the road. As soon as I saw the elephant I knew with perfect certainty that I ought to shoot him. It is a serious matter to shoot a working elephant--it is comparable to destroying a huge and costly piece of machinery—and obviously one ought not to do it if it can possibly be avoided. (George Orwell)