

50-Word Sentence Exercise

Directions: Read the assigned essays in the Woll Reader and create a 50-word sentence according to the description below for each essay..

50-word sentences

A 50-word sentence is used to get you to summarize a topic we are discussing clearly and correctly. I know a 50-word sentence is a run-on sentence and would make English teachers cringe. That is why when I assign a "50-word sentence" for a topic what I really mean is that I want my students (that's you) to use one or two sentences that are between 40 and 50 words. The whole idea for this type of assignment is to get you used to writing and getting to the point quickly.

I need to mention this, and YOU need to pay attention to this point. **Any 50-word sentence assignment over 50 words will receive an F.** It is quality, not quantity, that counts in this type of an assignment. **Any assignment less than 40 words will also receive an F.**

To show an example of a 50-word sentence, I include Prof. Charles Cohen's (UW-Madison) 50-word sentence on what it means to think historically below (do not let the strange words alarm you--I don't expect many of you to know what many of these terms mean. Just get a feel for the structure so you can do this assignment easily):

"Thinking historically is, first, an attitude acknowledging that every event can be meaningfully understood only in relation to previous events, and, second, the methodical application of this attitude, which entails both analyzing events contextually--as having occurred in the midst of pre-existing circumstances--and comprehending them from historical actors."

Keep in mind you will have to do quite a bit editing to create a good 50-word sentence. Be sure to mention the most important parts of whatever is being discussed. If you go over 50 words, get rid of any extra words or phrases that are not necessary.