Sentence Variety

Subordinates, Substitutes, and Coordinates

If the structure of your paper is predictable, it may be related to the very foundation of your paper--your sentence construction. Simply constructed clauses can be combined, as suggested below.

Subordinates:

Subordination makes the less important ideas grammatically dependant on the main focus of a sentence. Subordinate conjunctions can express time, reason or cause, result of effect, condition, contrast, location, or choice through a word or simple clause.

Example 1: Her boss overslept this morning and missed work. She called her employee for extra help.

Revision 1: Because her boss overslept yesterday, she called her employee for extra help.

Example 2: He will go to graduate school. He will not join the work force.

Revision 2: Rather than joining the work force, he will go to graduate school

Substitutes

Substitute the subject of the sentence with a pronoun, verb form, phrase, and/or clause.

Example 1: She likes to go fishing with her dad.

Revisions:

- Fishing with her dad is her favorite pastime.
- Fishing in the misty dawn is to know the real pleasure of the sport.

Coordinates

Complete sentences can be joined with the word: and, but, or, for, nor, so, and yet. A pair of coordinators can also be used to strengthen the connection between two coordinate elements such as both...and, either...or, not only...but.

Example 1: Professor Charlie Hunter cleans his labs daily. They still get dirty.

Revision 1: Professor Charlie Hunter cleans his labs daily, **but** they still get dirty.

Example 2: James spends Saturday and Sunday watching the NBA playoffs.

Revision 2: James spends both Saturday and Sunday watching the NBA playoffs.