

Creative Writing  
Lesson: Fri., April 10

**Learning Target:**

Students will learn about sentence variety and how to improve/increase fluidity in their writing.

**Let's Get Started:**

Watch Video: [Mini-Lesson \(Screencastify\)](#)

## Practice:

1. Check the opening to a story (or write a new one!) you're writing for redundancies or unnecessary repetitions. Are there simple, related sentences you could link to make a more complex one? Would a transition add more fluidity? Incorporate some of those changes and read back through your work.
2. Click to the next slide for some more practice.

## Practice:

1. Revise the passage below to increase sentence fluidity.
2. Remember: try to combine sentences where necessary, and use detail and transitions to help the reader see the action unfold. Everything you're doing as a writer is in service of the audience (the reader)!

The Chiefs won their first Super Bowl in fifty years in 2020. The week after the Super Bowl, the whole town went crazy. There was a parade in downtown Kansas City. A car chase sped through it. Videos circulated widely of a man falling out of a tree. It was a week everyone in Kansas City will remember for the rest of their lives.

# Beware!:

1. Don't go too crazy with transitions or prepositional phrases. This could lead to illogical actions or bizarre descriptions, as in:
  - a. *Grabbing the keys, we rushed toward the door.*
    - i. Using a gerund in this case makes it seem like an ongoing action, as if the characters are like massaging the keys on their way toward the door. Weird, right? Or, here's an example from John Gardner's *The Art of Fiction*:
  - b. *Quickly turning from the bulkhead, Captain Figg spoke slowly and carefully.*
    - i. This is impossible. What the writer means is something more like:
    - ii. Captain Figg turned quickly from the bulkhead. When he spoke, he did so slowly and carefully.
    - iii. (We'll avoid for now the excessive use of adverbs, which Stephen King says pave the road to hell...more on that later.)
2. Also check for passive voice. Often, when trying to add sentence variety, we inadvertently make the sentence passive.
  - a. *Having arrived at the car, the doors were opened and we got in.*
    - i. The doors were opened...by whom? A ghost?

# Model

In February, 2020, the Kansas City Chiefs won their first Super Bowl in 50 years, and the following week the whole town went crazy. With thousands of onlookers, police chased a car through the streets of downtown prior to the parade. Later, videos circulated widely of a man falling out of a tree. In the end, it was a week everyone in Kansas City will remember for the rest of their lives.

## **Additional Practice/Resources:**

Click on the links below for additional resources.

[Purdue Writing Lab](#)