

Three Effective Claim Statements Sentence Models

Pattern #1: Compound Sentence with Explanatory Statement (clauses separated by a colon)

Perfect for a claim statement.

General statement (idea) : (repetition) specific statement (example).
(an independent clause) (an independent clause)

The pattern is that of a compound sentence, but the **colon** performs a special function: It signals the reader that something important or explanatory will follow. In this particular pattern the colon signals that the second clause will specifically explain or expand some idea expressed only vaguely in the first clause.

Use this pattern when you want the second part of your sentence to explain the first part, give an example, or provide an answer to an implied question.

Examples

Jonathan Swift's Gulliver's Travels suggests disappointment: the disappointment comes from a race too blind to see its own faults.

People and governments are messed up: they fail to recognize the danger of the obvious consequences of their choices and policies.

Pattern 6: Appositive, appositive, appositive—summary word SV.

(Key summary words may be—such, all, those, this, many, each, which, what, these, something, someone. Sometimes this summary word will be the subject but other times it will merely modify the subject.)

Examples: The depressed, the stressed, the lonely, the fearful—all have trouble coping with problems.

What it comes down to is this: the student, the parent, the administration, the teacher, the school secretary, the bus driver, the coach, —these are the people who make education successful, these are the real sowers of the future.

Pattern 8: If . . . , if . . . , if . . . , then SV.

When . . . , when . . . , when . . . , SV.

OR

SV that . . . , that . . . , that

(omit the 3rd clause and have just 2, if you wish)

Examples:

Because it may seem difficult at first, because it may sound awkward or forced, because it often creates lengthy sentences where the thought “gets lost,” this pattern seems forbidding to some writers, but it isn’t all that hard; try it.