Sentence-Level Issues

- Parallel Sentence Structure
  - When constructing sentences, make sure that you balance grammatical elements, clauses, and sentences.
    - Example #1: I traded wealth for simplicity and smugness for satisfaction.
    - Example #2: Eventually, she came to understand Ted, who longed for love, who worried about rejection.
    - Example #3: When I got the job, I managed not to shout./When I interviewed for the job, I tried not to sweat.

Parallel Sentence Structure

- Consider that parallel structures help readers grasp ideas within a sentence.
  - The satisfaction came not from the money but from the recognition.
  - Parallel structures can also establish a relationship between two or more sentences.
    - If I have said anything in this letter that overstates the truth and indicates an unreasonable impatience, I beg you to forgive me. If I have said anything that understates the truth and indicates my having a patience that allows me to settle for anything less that brotherhood, I beg God to forgive me.—MLK, Jr.
  - Finally, keep in mind that parallel structures can require correlative conjunctions.
    - Correlative conjunctions include…both/and, either/or, neither/nor, not only/but also, and whether/or
      - Example #1: Either you pass the final or you repeat the course.
      - Example #2: Whether at home or at work, she was always busy.

Misplaced/Dangling Modifiers

- In your writing, it is vital that you keep related parts of a sentence together and avoid modifiers that do not logically refer to other words in a sentence (aka a “dangling modifier”).
  - Placing modifiers near the words they modify clarifies meaning
    - Butch just sat down at the table with his hat on.
- Just Butch sat down at the table with his hat on.
- Butch sat down at the table with just his hat on.

- To keep the meaning clear, place modifiers such as almost, even, hardly, etc. immediately before the words they modify.
- The flight costs only $380.
- Drew spent even his tuition money.

- Modifiers that refer to no particular element in a sentence need to be revised.
- Dangling modifier refers to a verbal phrase that does not refer clearly and logically to another word or phrase in a sentence

- Example:
  - Incorrect: Tuning the television to CNN, the State of the Union speech reached millions of voters.
  - Correct: Because they tuned the television to CNN, the State of the Union speech reached millions of voters.
  - Why the difference?—The second revision allows for a more clear connection between the main clause and the modifier