

Name _____

Date _____

Varying Sentence Structure and Length

Using a mix of short and long sentences makes your writing more interesting. Short sentences grab attention. Long sentences explain ideas in detail. Combining them creates rhythm and makes your writing easier and more fun to read aloud.

Strategies:

- Mix short, medium, and long sentences.
- Use short sentences to emphasize key ideas.
- Break long sentences that feel too complex.
- Read your work aloud to check the rhythm and flow.

A. Read this short problem-and-solution essay. Then answer the questions.

Too Much Graffiti

This year, Highland Middle School has seen a sharp rise in graffiti. Graffiti is illegal and makes the school look messy. Cleaning it up is expensive. To reduce graffiti, students should take an active role in removing and preventing it.

I suggest that each homeroom “adopt a spot” on campus. Students would be responsible for keeping their area graffiti-free. They could work together to improve the appearance and prevent new graffiti. Homerooms could involve local businesses and community members. They might raise money for cleaning and art supplies. Students could also plan and paint murals to make their areas look nice and discourage vandalism.

By adopting areas, students take responsibility for their school. They feel proud of their work. Cleanup costs are lowered, and the school becomes a cleaner, more welcoming place.

[illegible]

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Varying Sentence Structure and Length – Answer Key

1. What is the average number of words in each sentence?

Around 15–20 words per sentence. Some are shorter (6–8 words), and some are longer (20–25 words).

2. Does the essay have good sentence fluency? Why or why not?

The original essay is clear but uses sentences of similar length, which makes the rhythm monotonous. Varying sentence lengths would make it more engaging and enjoyable to read aloud.

B. Rewrite the essay with varied sentence lengths.

Too Much Graffiti

Graffiti is becoming a big problem at Highland Middle School. This year, it has increased sharply. It is illegal. It also makes the school look messy and old.

Students need to take action. I propose that each homeroom “adopt a spot.” They would be in charge of keeping it free from graffiti. Students could work together to clean the area, paint murals, and improve its appearance. Local businesses and community members might donate supplies or funds for art projects.

By adopting areas, students take ownership of their school. They feel proud of their work. Cleanup costs are reduced. The school becomes cleaner and more welcoming for everyone.