

Combining Sentences

Why combine sentences? Combining sentences makes your writing more fluid and interesting to read; it helps if every sentence doesn't sound the same. Some ways to accomplish this are:

1. Varying the length of your sentences
2. Combining similar ideas with colons, semi-colons, and dashes
(colon = : semi-colon = ; and dash = -)
3. Using transitional words and phrases (see transitional words and phrases handout)

For Example, you could take the following sentences:

It is a new semester
I will work hard
I will do my homework
I will get good grades
I have a new chance.

And combine them to say:

It is a new semester so I have a chance to work hard, do all my homework, and get good grades – this means I have a new chance!

OR

I have a new chance to work hard, do my homework, and get good grades because it is a new semester.

Directions: Combine each of the following sets of sentences into as few grammatically correct statements as possible, just like the examples above. You may omit words, rearrange the order of the sentences, or add transitional words, however you must not change the meaning of the statements or add new ideas. Write your sentences on the lines provided (opposite side of paper).

Set 1

I went to see Stomp the Yard.
I went to Bayfair.
I rode the 57.
The people behind us would not stop talking.
Someone started throwing popcorn.
I was annoyed.
Security finally kicked them out.

Set 2

We watched the evening news.
The leading story was about the storm.
It made me mad.
There are more important things in the world.
We are still at war in Iraq.
There are also good things happening.

Set 3

The basketball season is very exciting.
The boys are playing very well.
The girls are playing very well.
I hope we win the OAL.
The athletes do an excellent job.
Everyone knows the Knights are the best!

Set 4

The House on Mango Street is a novel by Sandra Cisneros
The protagonist is named Esperanza.
She dreams of having a house she can be proud of.
At first she doesn't like where she lives.
She realizes that Mango Street will always be a part of her.
She accepts who she is and where she comes from.

1.

2.

3.

4.

Handwritten student responses on lined paper for questions 1 through 4.

Handwritten notes at the bottom of the page.