Sentence Variety

**Types of Sentences:**
1. **Simple**—one independent clause
   
ex: I'm going home now.

2. **Compound**—more than one independent clause, joined by a coordinating conjunction or semicolon
   
ex: I'm going home now, and I'll see you later.
   I'm going home now; I'll see you later.

   Use **coordination** to relate equal ideas.

3. **Complex**—one independent clause + one dependent clause, joined by a subordinating conjunction
   
ex: Because I'm going home now, I'll see you later.
   I'm going home now because I'll see you later.

   Use **subordination** to emphasize main ideas.

4. **Compound-complex**—more than one independent + one dependent clause
   
ex: Because I'm going home now, I'll see you later, and then we can talk about what we should do this weekend.

**Sentence Beginnings**
1. introductory **phrase**
   
   prepositional: *On a busy street in Tokyo*, the traveler was lost.
   
   infinitive: *To prove his point*, he turned to the encyclopedia.
   
   participial (verb ending with –ing or –ed and acting as an adjective):
   
   *Waiting for the movie to begin*, my friends ate popcorn.
   *Forced to work late*, they ordered pizza with mushrooms.

2. introductory dependent **clause**, or a clause condensed to a phrase
   
   *While my clothes were hanging on the line*, a dense storm moved in.
   *While hanging on the line*, my clothes were drenched by a dense storm.

3. introductory appositive (a short, descriptive word or group of words)
   
   *A skilled thief at the age of ten*, I took pride in my daring and expertise.

**Sentence Length**
Follow a long, complex sentence with a short sentence that packs a punch.

To analyze patterns in your sentence lengths: in 1-2 paragraphs, put a slash mark at the end of each sentence; then, examine sentence variety.