

### Goal 1: Concise Articulation

I've always been a verbose writer. All of my writing assignments always surpass the required limit. For example, all but one of my political blogs exceeds 550 words, when only two paragraphs are required. In my Honors Tocqueville analysis, I wrote 1,749 words, when the required maximum was 1,000. I used to think that I did this because I had many interpretations and analyses of the writing subjects; the truth is that I can't explain my ideas in simple methods. The phrase 'quality over quantity' comes to mind. Just because I've written a lot of words doesn't mean my argument is coherent. The extra words often detract from the quality of my writing and have also created more work. I've attempted to conquer this long-windedness since sophomore year, but have thus far been unsuccessful. Now I'm going to try a new approach. My current technique for writing is just letting my brain come up with ideas and have my fingers type those thoughts. This 'literary throw-up' is great because it gets my thoughts down, but I never take the time to go back through and combine similar ideas or eliminate the non-essentials. From now on after I've finished heaving on the page, I'm going to force myself to rethink and organize. Tight editing is really a must.

### Goal 2: Transitions

Another problem that branches from my verbose articulation mentioned above is my sudden jumps in thought in my writing. In my Honors Tocqueville analysis, I made many of these jumps. One of which was this:

...Openly homosexual individuals were excluded from peer groups and found it hard or near impossible to get employment. Even though the society might be democratic, it acted in a tyrannical manner towards the gay population.

The founders of our Constitution created the United States of America to escape...

In one paragraph I discussed the relationship between majorities and minorities while using stigma towards homosexuality as an example, and then I started discussing the Founding Fathers. In my brain I had a transition to link these independent thoughts, but I didn't get it down on screen. I feel that the solution for this goal is found in the same tight editing process aforementioned. As I take a different approach to my writing and really organize my thoughts, I will be able to notice when transitions need to be added.

### Goal 3: Appropriate Voice

My favorite writing technique is interacting with the reader. I enjoy making my essays interactive and drawing people in. However, this style isn't always appropriate. It's acceptable in non-formal blog posts, but not in a more serious essay. Yet again, my Tocqueville essay has many great examples one of which is:

It's subjective to which majority opinions you've chosen to follow. Whether or not your views coincide with what I've expressed here, I hope I've stimulated some neurons and opened your eyes to the one affliction from which we all suffer.

My direct dialogue with the reader is unnecessary in the context of this formal writing piece. Moving forward, my strategy to combat this is to always be aware of whether this is formal or informal by writing in **BIG BOLD LETTERS** at the top of each of my papers so that I'm constantly reminded which voice I can use.

Note: Paragraph 4 isn't included because I was already done with my college essays when we began writing them in class.