

Data Sheets for Discourse Analysis #3

Team Name: _____

In this exercise, you are asked to analyze stylistic issues related to order and connection in your assigned article.

The goal is to generate some data about how language is used in professional journals in order to increase your awareness. The analysis criteria are outlined below and in the pages that follow.

I would like to thank Drs. Jim Cavers, Bill Gruver, Karim Karim, and Ash Parameswaren for allowing us to use their well-written articles for this purpose.

1. Empty Sentence Openers: Can you find any empty sentence openers (“It is” or “There is/are”) in the article? Do these openers need revision?

2. Embedded Phrases: Can you find any embedded phrases (especially ones separating the subjects and verbs) in the article? Do these need revision?

3. Weak Endings: Can you find any weak sentence endings in the article? Do these need revision?

4. Unnecessary Repetition: Can you find any instances of unnecessary repetition in the article?

5. Vague “This” Subjects: Can you find any instances of vague “this” subjects in the article? Are any of them especially unclear?

6. Adverbial and Subordinating Conjunctions: Does the article make extensive or limited use of adverbial conjunctions (i.e., “however,” “therefore,” “consequently,” “thus,” “nevertheless,” etc.) or subordinating conjunctions (“although,” “since,” “as,” “because,” “whereas,” etc.)? Would adding more of these improve coherence or clarity?