

Guided CDO (Compare–Diagnose–Operate)

Mat Step 1: COMPARE - What did I mean to say?

- Read your sentence slowly.
- Say out loud what you meant to write.
- Ask yourself: "Does this sentence say what I wanted it to say?"

Sentence I wrote: _____

What I meant to say: _____

Does it match? [] Yes [] No

Step 2: DIAGNOSE - What's wrong with my sentence?

- Use evaluation cards or this checklist to identify the problem.

Which best describes your sentence?

- [] It doesn't sound right.
- [] It's not what I meant to say.
- [] It's not useful to my paper.
- [] It might confuse the reader.
- [] It's not interesting.
- [] It's not believable.
- [] It's strong – no change needed!

Diagnosis: _____

Step 3: OPERATE - How can I fix it?

Choose one revision strategy:

- [] Add a detail or example
- [] Delete extra or off-topic words
- [] Reword for clarity
- [] Rearrange sentence parts
- [] Combine sentences
- [] Break into shorter sentences
- [] Add a transition
- [] Change tone or word choice

New sentence: _____

Check your fix:

- [] My new sentence says what I meant.
- [] It is clearer, stronger, or more specific.
- [] I used a fitting revision strategy.