

# 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.