

Part 1 – Use the following words to write 5 original sentences that follow a **periodic** sentence structure:

- ~~arduous~~
- ~~assiduously~~
- ~~disapprobation~~
- ~~impede~~
- ~~tremulous~~

1. Despite the fact that the task was **arduous**, he was able to preserve through to the end.
2. While the speaker was arguing his case at the rally, the group of people **impeded** on the audience's ability to hear him.
3. As he scolded his daughter for her misbehavior, she became **tremulous** with guilt.
4. Because of the injuries that the girl sustained in the fire, she has to be cared for **assiduously**.
5. Despite his mother's **disapprobation**, he continued to stay out past his curfew time.

Part 2 – Use the following words to write 5 original sentences that follow a **loose** sentence structure:

- ~~aversion~~
- ~~effrontery~~
- ~~ingress~~
- ~~irreparable~~
- ~~suffusion~~

1. The school had a strong **aversion** towards the student after finding out he was responsible for causing the fight.
2. The student was given detention for having the **effrontery** to disrespect his teachers in front of the administrators.
3. It felt great to **ingress** into the park again after having been closed for so long.
4. **Irreparable** damage was caused to his car after colliding with the truck.
5. The **suffusion** of colors gave the painting a feeling of vibrance and resonance.

Part 3 – Read the historical context below and answer the questions that follow to analyze Henry David Thoreau’s diction and syntax.

Henry David Thoreau is best known for his book *Walden* and his essay “Civil Disobedience.” He is considered a leader of the Transcendentalist movement, which valued individualism and self-reliance as opposed to societal institutions like organized religion and political parties.

Thoreau’s writings influenced presidents, civil rights leaders, Supreme Court justices, artists, and authors. Thoreau’s book *Walden* is an account of the two years, two months, and two days he spent in a cabin he built near Walden Pond in Massachusetts. His works explore themes of independence, self-reliance, simple-living, and spiritual discovery.

1. Read the following excerpt from Chapter 5 “Solitude” of *Walden* and answer the question that follows:

“Some of my pleasantest hours were during the long rainstorms in the spring or fall, which confined me to the house for the afternoon as well as the forenoon, soothed by their ceaseless roar and pelting...”

Which type of sentence has Thoreau crafted in this example? How would the effect be different if Thoreau used a series of simple sentences?

In this example, Thoreau has crafted a *loose* sentence. If he were to have instead used a series of simple sentences, the message would come across more choppy and less fluent. Loose sentences allow more ideas to be conveyed in a more fluent manner.

2. Read the following sentence and answer the question that follows:

“After all, the practical reason why, when the power is once in the hands of the people, a majority are permitted, and for a long period continue, to rule is not because they are most likely to be in the right, nor because this seems fairest to the minority, but because they are physically the strongest.”

Which type of sentence has Thoreau crafted in this example? Why has Thoreau expressed his ideas using this structure? What is the effect?

Thoreau in this example has crafted a *periodic* sentence. He has expressed his ideas through this sentence structure as it creates a build-up in what he is saying. As his ideas continue to build up, anticipation is felt by the audience; which further draws them in.

3. Read the following passage and consider Thoreau's syntax and diction:

"Holding a microscope to the first-mentioned red ant, I saw that, though he was assiduously gnawing at the near fore leg of his enemy, having severed his remaining feeler, his own breast was all torn away, exposing what vitals he had there to the jaws of the black warrior, whose breastplate was apparently too thick for him to pierce; and the dark carbuncles of the sufferer's eyes shone with ferocity such as war only could excite."

What is the effect of Thoreau's syntactical choices in this passage? (Be sure to answer the implied component of this question – what choices does he make?)

Thoreau in this passage combines together multiple subordinate clauses with an independent clause to further go in depth with his details and descriptions. Through this, the reader feels a sense of anticipation and tension as they inch closer and closer towards the climax.

Compare and contrast the diction in Passage 1 and Passage 2. Explain how the diction affects the meaning, tone, and mood of the passages.

The first passage contains much stronger diction than that of the second. In the passage, particular connotations are used for certain words, which further contribute to the established mood and tone of the passage as a whole. Specifically, the word "severed" produces a much more tense and hostile tone than the word "broken" used in the second passage. Overall, the first passage is better able to connect with the intended mood and tone that Thoreau hopes to convey to the audience.

Passage 1

"Holding a microscope to the first-mentioned red ant, I saw that, though he was assiduously **gnawing** at the near fore leg of his enemy, having **severed** his remaining feeler, his own breast was all torn away, **exposing** what vitals he had there to the jaws of the black warrior, whose breastplate was apparently too thick for him to **pierce**; and the dark carbuncles of the sufferer's eyes shone with ferocity such as war only could excite." — Henry David Thoreau, *Walden*

Passage 2

Holding a microscope to the first-mentioned red ant, I saw that, though he was assiduously **nibbling** at the near fore leg of his enemy, having **broken** his remaining feeler, his own breast was all torn away, **showing** what vitals he had there to the jaws of the black warrior, whose breastplate was apparently too thick for him to **prick**; and the dark carbuncles of the sufferer's eyes shone with ferocity such as war only could excite."