

# HOW TO REDUCE WORD COUNT

Editing Tips 101: Part I, Tip #1 by Wordvice.com

### AVOID NOMINALIZATIONS

- What is a nominalization? It's
   when you convert a word into a
   noun form, e.g., consider 
   consideration.
- Why shouldn't we use nominalizations? They create wordiness by, for example, adding avoidable prepositions and articles or creating passive voice.

## RECOGNIZING NOMINALIZATIONS

Most common include:

- Phrases using "make" and "take"
- gerunds (verb+ing)
- nouns typically ending in

   tion, -sion, -ment, -ence,

   and -ance

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#### **HOW TO REVISE**

- Nominalization is the subject of passive voice structure: Identify the true subject, and convert nominalization to a verb for that subject. Ex: The approval of the plan was given... The committee approved the plan...
- Back-to-back nominalizations: Make the first a verb, and keep the second or change the second to a question-word phrase. Ex: First was their introduction of their analysis of... First, they introduced how they analyzed...
- Nominalization in subject is connected to nominalization in predicate: Change each nominalization to a verb. Then consider the logical connection between the two parts and add the appropriate connectors (because, when, if, although, even though, despite, etc.). Ex: Her understanding of the situation was evidenced by the quitting of her job. 

  When she quit her job, she

showed she understood the situation.