

ZOO/BOT 4100 - Writing in the Biological Sciences
Exercise 1 (5 points)

Name _____

Verbs, nouns, and sentences

1. Rewrite the following passages to strengthen verbs, eliminate empty nouns, and convert passive voice to active voice. Also, correct any sentence fragments or run-on sentences:

After getting done with the lab work, I did the write-ups that were required by the assignment.

The thing I like most about doing field work is getting to be out there and doing good work for conservation.

According to the cataclysm theory, there was an asteroid that hit the earth at the end of the Cretaceous, which was the cause of the demise of the dinosaurs.

There are some students who cannot be given motivation to study for a test.

The comparison of the two treatments can be done through various approaches.

This makes for quite a bit of confusion in the data set.

What did cause the conflict was the fact that the editor's philosophy had a discouraging effect on the student.

Finally, the thing which I consider to be most important about myself is the fact that I am very individualistic and independent.

2. Revise each *italicized* passage to strengthen a verb or use the active voice.

To make a *DNA analysis of a suspect* _____ in a crime case, you have to *get a sample of their tissue by taking blood or hair* _____ . Then, *a DNA extraction is done* _____ and *the extracted DNA put into alcoholic solution* _____ with a restriction enzyme that cleaves the DNA in various places. You *do an electrophoresis gel for the suspect's DNA* _____ alongside the DNA from the crime scene and *see if* _____ the two DNA patterns match. If the two DNA samples are not from the same person, the chances of them matching are nil.

3. Edit (rewrite phrases as needed) the following passage to strengthen verbs and convert passive to active voice. Do not change the meaning of the passage.

Last summer I did surveys of black-footed ferrets for the Fish and Wildlife Service. I also got to do some work on reintroductions of ferrets. Captive ferrets were taken from their mothers at six weeks of age and put in special pens where they were able to learn how to kill their own prey. They were given prairie dogs that had been caught in the wild and had their teeth filed down so they would not do anything harmful to the young ferrets. We also made observations of the young ferrets to come up with which were the best killers. These ferrets were then put in the wild to make a new population.

In October the releases were done, involving putting ferrets in release boxes for a week, then opening the door and letting them go when ready. Our group put 16 ferrets in release boxes. We had to check on them every day, to make sure they had water and food. Then on day 8 they were let go, and seen to run off in the distance. It was quite a sight.