

ZOO/BOT 4100 - Writing in the Biological Sciences
Exercise 2 (5 points) Conciseness and Clarity

Name _____

1. Rewrite each of the following sentences to increase conciseness and clarity. That includes deleting empty nouns, using active voice and strong verbs, and improving pronoun-antecedent agreement.

Our technicians made a trip to the study area, where nest boxes were put on trees in each of the plots.

The data were able to show that nutrition had a relationship with longevity so that the better nourished mice had longer lives.

KPO₄ was put into solution in isopropyl alcohol by my technician, who did the extractions of myosin using this mixture.

If managers have adequate input from subordinates, they can effectuate more viable decisions.

All agencies who want to use certain pesticides are required to give evidence of the environmental safety of the pesticides.

2. Using editorial marks, improve the conciseness and clarity of the following paragraph by converting from passive to active voice wherever possible, using the strongest possible verb form, and deleting empty nouns. Correct any pronoun-antecedent inconsistencies. Do not change the meaning of the passage. All spellings are correct.

The cougar (*Felis concolor*), a native of the New World from Patagonia to Alaska, has gone from low to high numbers in the West. Dr. Wayne Miller of the Utah Division of Wildlife studies the cougar in Mexico. They think that cougars got more common because there are a lot more deer now than in the past. The effect of having more cougars is there are a lot more people and pets killed by cougars now than there were 20 years ago.