

Bring life to your writing: avoid “There is/are/was/were”

Avoid beginning sentences with “There is/are/was/were.” Empty words like these drain energy from the sentence. Often the fix is as simple as striking them out, as in the first example below. Removing them can also lead to other tightening, as in the second example below.

Examples

Instead of: There are many regulations governing the safe storage of radioactive materials.

Write: Many regulations govern the safe storage of radioactive materials.

Instead of: There is the option for students to leave the degree program after two successful years with a Diploma of Technology.

Write: Students can leave the degree program after two successful years with a Diploma of Technology.



A tip from the BCIT editing community

– Jim, Kathleen, Gary, Barb

Helping to engage—and retain—students