

Elements of Style

I. Diction

A. Type of language

1. Standard English - formal
2. Standard English - informal
3. Dialect

B. Vocabulary - level of difficulty

1. Concrete words - words that have specific meanings; refers to things that are usually familiar and easily recognized.
2. Abstract words - the use of words to refer to concepts; a large number of abstract words often results in a higher level of difficulty and unfamiliarity

C. Imagery

1. Use of connotations
2. Use of descriptive nouns and verbs
3. Figurative language
 - a. Metaphors
 - b. Similes
 - c. Personification
 - d. Symbols
4. Etc.

D. Tone - the writer's attitude toward subjects or readers

II. Sentences

A. Length (number of words in sentences)

B. Types of sentences

1. Simple
2. Complex
3. Compound
4. Compound-complex

C. Form

1. Dialogue
2. Narrative

D. Parallel Construction

1. Phrases
2. Clauses

E. Repetition

1. Words
2. Phrases
3. Clauses

III. Rhetorical Devices (literary elements)

Usually makes writing more poetic

Usually increases difficulty

1. Pun
2. Alliteration
3. Synecdoche
4. Etc.