

NOMINALIZATIONS

1. What is a nominalization?

A nominalization is a verb (or adjective) that functions as a noun. For example, as nominalizations, the verbs **state** and **assume** become the nouns **statement** and **assumption**. Words that end in -ment, -ion, -ence, -ance, -ity, -ent, -ant, and -ancy are often nominalizations.

2. Why does it matter?

Nominalizations interfere with writing concise and direct sentences by making those sentences unnecessarily wordy. Using a nominalization—i.e., turning a verb into a noun—requires additional verbs and often prepositions and articles. Nominalizations may also lead to passive voice and weak verb choices.

Nominalized Phrase	Concise Revision
gave a report	reported
made a decision	decided
offered a suggestion	suggested
resulted in an increase	increased
led to the destruction of	destroyed

Examples:

- **Nominalization:** The court provided analysis on the issue and offered its conclusion that the defendant was guilty.
- **Better:** The court analyzed the issue and concluded the defendant was guilty.

- **Nominalization:** The **usage** of the property by the defendants was for the **storage** of the stolen jewelry and murder weapons.
- **Better:** The defendant **stored** the jewelry and murder weapons on the property.

- **Nominalization:** An **agreement** was made by the parties to reach a plea deal by Monday.
- **Better:** The parties **agreed** to reach a plea deal by Monday.

3. Sometimes, nominalizations can be useful

- When you are making a general statement that focuses more on the idea than the actual actors in the sentence.
 - Example: The **distribution** of the pizzas was fair.

**** Remember that, even in a case where a nominalization is appropriate, you should not overuse them in any portion of your text ****