

PLAIN ENGLISH, PLEASE

A writer has to be able to get a point across clearly and directly to the reader. Every writer has to learn to clear the way--to do without pretentious words, awkward repetition, unnecessary machinery. Each of the following sentences should be stripped down or straightened out so that the main point will come through clearly. Rewrite each sentence as simply and as clearly as you can.

1. The heads of most major businesses were still run by men, not women.

2. In due course, we eventually found out how far it really is to Los Angeles from here in terms of distance.

3. My father did not express his feelings in ways which I could understand them.

4. In the professional world of lawyers, doctors, and scientists, there are far too few Hispanics in this area of concentration.

5. Unless unfortunate luck falls upon her, she will be famous some day.

6. The type of roommate I like is one who is neat and relatively studious.

7. In January, if it is at all financially possible for me to afford it, I would like to rent a great big old Victorian house.

8. Detention is our only basic method of punishing criminals; the death penalty cannot be considered because the question of its continuation is at present before the courts.

9. The student who carries books and discusses chemistry between classes shows his alienation from the more typical modern student of today.

10. In one of the senator's statements during the debate, he cited the fact that he had supported 80 percent of the President's bills.
