**SENTENCE EMPHASIS**

**Emphasizing** means “give special importance or value to (something) in speaking or writing.” (Oxford Advanced Learner's Dictionary) .

**Techniques for Emphasizing**

1. Emphasizing by position

2. Emphasizing by Order of Climax

3. Emphasizing by repetition of important words

4. Emphasizing by Sentence length and structure:

1. Length
2. Structure

* Periodic sentences,
* balanced sentences,
* the active voice,
* subordination.

5. Emphasizing by Word/phrase choice and EMPHATIC expressions

6. Emphasizing by Punctuation and Typography

**SENTENCE EMPHASIS PRACTICE**

**Copy the following sentences and do the following: • Bracket the independent clause(s) in each sentence and underline each modifying phrase and dependent clause. Label each sentence cumulative or periodic. • Relocate the supporting details to make cumulative sentences periodic and periodic sentences cumulative, adding words or rephrasing to make your meaning clear.**

*Example: Feeling isolated, sad, and frightened, [the small child sat alone in the train depot.] (periodic)*

***Revised:*** *The small child sat alone in the train depot, feeling isolated, sad, and frightened.*

*(cumulative)*

1.However different in their educational opportunities, both Jefferson and Lincoln as young men became known to their contemporaries as "hard students."

2.The road came into being slowly, league by league, river crossing by river crossing.

3. Without willing it, I had gone from being ignorant of being ignorant to being aware of being aware.

4.To those of us who remain committed mainly to the exploration of moral distinctions and ambiguities, the feminist analysis may have seemed a particularly narrow and cracked determinism.

**Combine each of the following sentence groups into one cumulative sentence, subordinating supporting details to main ideas. Then combine each group into one periodic sentence. Each group can be combined in a variety of ways, and you may have to add, delete, change, or reorder words.**

*Example: More women than ever before are running for office. They are encouraged by the success of other*

*female candidates.*

***Cumulative****: More women than ever before are running for office, encouraged by the success of other female*

*candidates.*

***Periodic:*** *Encouraged by the success of other female candidates, more women than ever before are running for*

*office.*

1. Many politicians opposed the MX missile. They believed it was too expensive. They felt that a smaller, single-warhead missile was preferable.

2. Smoking poses a real danger. It is associated with various cancers. It is linked to heart disease and stroke. It threatens even nonsmokers.

3. Black-footed ferrets are rare North American mammals. They prey on prairie dogs. They are primarily nocturnal. They have black feet and black-tipped tails. Their faces have raccoon-like masks.

4. Today’s college students are under a good deal of stress. Job prospects in some fields are not very good. Financial aid is not as easy to come by as it was in the past.

5. Education has grown very expensive. The job market has become tighter. Pressure to get into graduate and professional schools has increased.

**Rewrite the following sentences, rearranging the elements in the lists into climactic order.**

**Random order:** When the bucket fell off the ladder, the paint splashed onto the small rug, the drop cloth, the Rembrandt painting, and the sofa.

**Climactic order** :...........................................................................................................................................

**Random order**: Franklin used the ant as a symbol of industry, wisdom and efficiency

**Climactic order:** ...........................................................................................................................................

**Random order:** Before buying the house, inspect the carpet for wear, the foundation for cracks, the roof for leaks, the plumbing for rusty water, and the paint for chipping.

**Climactic order:** ...........................................................................................................................................

**Random order:** Today we enjoy the benefits of modern technology, including life-saving antibiotics, ballpoint pens, and refrigerators.

**Climactic order:** ...........................................................................................................................................

**Random order:** Natural water storage includes the oceans, ponds, lakes, and puddles.

**Climactic order:** ...........................................................................................................................................

**Revise the following sentences to make them more emphatic. For each, decide which ideas should be highlighted, and place these key ideas at sentence beginnings or endings. Use climactic order or depart from conventional word order where appropriate.**

1. Police want to upgrade their firepower because criminals are better armed than ever before.

2. A few years ago, felons used so-called Saturday night specials, small-caliber six-shot revolvers.

3. Now, semiautomatic pistols capable of firing fifteen to twenty rounds, along with paramilitary weapons like the AK-47, have replaced these weapons.

4. Police are adopting such weapons as new fast-firing shotguns and9mm automatic pistols in order to gain an equal footing with their adversaries.

5. Faster reloading and a hair trigger are two of the numerous advantages that automatic pistols, the weapons of choice among law enforcement officers, have over the traditional .38-caliber police revolver