Parallelism

Purpose: Upon completion of this activity, students will understand what parallelism is and in which three situations it is employed. This DLA should take approximately 1 hour to complete.

Go to the WRC reception desk and ask to check out Diana Hacker’s *A Writer’s Reference*. You will need a driver’s license or other photo identification to check this book out for use in the WRC.

1. Turn to the section in the book on Sentence Style and read about parallelism.
2. List the three situations in which parallelism is used:
   a. ______________________________________________________________
   b. ______________________________________________________________
   c. ______________________________________________________________
3. On the next page of this handout, edit the paragraphs to correct faulty parallelism. In the margins next to your corrections, write the number of the rule from *A Writer’s Reference* to which you referred when making your correction.
4. Before reviewing your answers with an instructor or tutor, use the space below to write any questions you still have about parallel structure:

   __________________________________________________________________
   __________________________________________________________________

5. If your instructor requests, look at a paper you are currently writing, and find one paragraph you can revise to improve parallelism. Use the techniques described in the reading to guide you.

6. Bring the book, your completed exercise, plus the paper you are revising to an instructor or tutor to review. Have that person sign and date this sheet.

________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________

Instructor/Tutor signature Date
Parallelism: Guided Practice

In his own time, one famous sixteenth-century man was known only by his given name, "Leonardo." Today he is still known by that single name. But then and now, that name suggests many different roles for its owner: biologist, botanist, inventor, engineer, strategist, researcher, and artist.

Sixteenth-century Venetian soldiers knew Leonardo as a military strategist. When the Turkish fleet was invading their country, Leonardo suggested conducting surprise underwater attacks and to flood the land that the Turkish army had to cross. Engineers knew him as the man who laid out new canals for the city of Milan. Scientists admired him for not only his precise anatomical drawings but also for his discovery that hardening of the arteries could cause death. To Milan’s royal court, Leonardo was the artist who was painting impressive portraits, sculpting a bronze horse memorial to the house of Sforza, and at the same time worked on a mural of the Last Supper.

Leonardo saw a three-dimensional s-curve in all of nature—the flow of water, the movements of animals, and how birds flew. We recognize the same s-curve today in the spiraling form of DNA. Leonardo invented the wave theory: He saw that grain bending as the wind blew over it and water rippling from a stone cast into it were the same scientific event. It was easy for him to see this wave in sound and light as observing it in fields and streams. The math of his day could not explain all his theories, but twentieth-century scientists showed the world that Leonardo knew what he was talking about.

Leonardo saw very clearly that the powers of nature could be destructive and human beings could be savage. At the same time, he saw a unity holding all life’s varied parts together, a unity he could express in his art.

“Leonardo”—it’s quite a name!