



Be Concise (Sample Answers)

A. The articles were published in the magazine by the student council.

Tip: Identify and remove the extra “to be” verb. Find the subject and main action (verb) in the sentence.

The student council published the articles in the magazine

To publish is the main action. The subject is the student council.

B. The students were at the rally to protest increasing tuition fees.

Tip: Sometimes extra “to be” verbs are used to soften action words or delay the main idea. Remove the “to be” verb and use the specific action verb.

The students protested increasing tuition fees at the rally.

The specific action is highlighted for more direct effect.

C. There are several reasons why students should learn how to edit their writing.

Tip: Start by removing “There are” and begin the sentence with the subject.

Students should learn how to edit their writing for several reasons. OR

Students should learn how to edit their writing because (provide good content).

Main idea of the sentence is emphasized.

D. During the time that students are at university, they often acquire a lot of debt.

Tip: First erase the empty phrase. Look at what is left and decide on the most direct way to state the idea.

Students often acquire a lot of debt at University.

Main idea of the sentence is emphasized.