**Passive Voice Indicators**

Simple verbs to eliminate in formal writing:

* Am
* Are
* Be
* Been
* Being
* Is
* Was
* Were

**Example of passive voice (with simple verbs):**

In the novel *To Kill a Mockingbird*, Scout is a character that was scared.

Corrected form:

In the novel *To Kill a Mockingbird*, the main character, Scout, fears her neighbor.

**Example of passive voice (without simple verbs):**

In the novel *The Devil in the White City*, Holmes never admitted anything about the women hidden in the building.

Corrected form:

In the novel *The Devil in the White City*, Holmes never admitted he hid women in the building.

**Example of Passive (with a preposition):**

Therefore, the claim that the child feels unloved by family asserts that some depressed children feel neglected.

Corrected form:

Therefore, the claim arises that a child from a loveless family experiences loneliness, which can cause depression.