**Active voice** uses fewer words and emphasizes who performs the action. Activate sentences to enhance cohesivity and concision.

**WHY USE ACTIVE VOICE?**
Most professors prefer active voice, and overall, it clarifies and improves writing.

- **Active voice** directly and concisely clarifies phrasing which helps promote coherence in writing.
- It helps avoid unnecessary words that muddy the intent of the sentence.
- **Active voice** enhances the flow of academic writing and makes meaning more lively for the audience.

**ACTIVE VOICE**
Writing with **active voice** involves having the subject of the sentence act through the verb of the sentence.

*Example:* The student writes papers and poetry.

Student = subject
writes = action/verb

The subject (student) performs the action (writes).

**PASSIVE VOICE**
Writing with **passive voice** involves having the verb of the sentence act upon the subject of the sentence.

*Example:* The papers are being written by the students.

Paper = direct object
Written by = action/verb

Students = subject because they complete the action.

**CHANGE PASSIVE TO ACTIVE**
**Passive Sentence Example:** The scholarship will be applied for by the boy.

1. **Identify the subject.**
   Who performs the action? The boy represents the subject because he performs the action.

2. **Identify the verb.**
   What action does the subject perform? The subject, the boy, applies, so that represents the verb.

3. **Change the "to be" phrase to a concise active verb.**
   "Will be applied" changes to "apply."

**Activated sentence:** The boy applies for the scholarship.

**KEY IDEAS**
- Let the subject perform the action.
- Change "to be" phrases to concise versions of active verbs.
  - "To be" verbs: am, are, is, was, were, be, been
- With active voice, the subject of the sentence acts, but in passive voice, the verb acts upon the subject.
- Try to avoid expliative constructions such as "there is," "it is," and "there were."