

Our **primary vocabulary** for talking about prose falters under the weight of **quirky and subjective terms** related to how we feel when we read. Consequently, we need “**a second vocabulary**, one that will help us explain what it is that makes us want to call a passage turgid or disjointed, a vocabulary that also suggests how we can revise it” (19).



*FNGL328 P2 Sample*  
*Name O. Student*  
*Name P. Student*

*Clarity*  
*Joseph M. Williams*

FIXED	SUBJECT	VERB	COMPLEMENT
VARIABLE	CHARACTERS	ACTION	-----

## Tell Stories

We can locate a secondary vocabulary in simple narrative structures. According to Williams, clear writing foregrounds **characters** and **actions**. Sentences that tell stories in this way are clearer for most readers. Revise accordingly. Furthermore, writers should recognize when they introduce **nominalizations**, or verbs and adjectives that have been recast as nouns, since these can create confusion for readers.