

# **The Paramedic Revision Method**

Adapted from: Lanham, Richard. REVISING PROSE. NY: MacMillan, 1992.

## **THE MODERN OFFICIAL STYLE CHARACTERISTICS**

- conceptual ( passive voice and noun style)**
- redundant**
- impersonal**
- euphemism and jargon**
- factual**
- tedious (takes a long time to get moving)**

## **THE PARAMEDIC METHOD INSTRUCTIONS\***

- Circle prepositions**
- Circle "to be" verbs (is, am, are, was, were)**
- Put the action in a simple active verb**
- Get the sentence going fast**
- Read the prose aloud**

### **\*Notes:**

- 1. You don't have to eliminate all prepositional phrases, but eliminate those that clutter.**
- 2. The passive voice is okay if your emphasis is on the object.**
- 3. Short sentences are most often used for emphasis and/or transitions.**
- 4. Long sentences usually contain more complex thoughts.**
- 5. Eliminate vague modifiers; make up for deletions with concrete words/specific details**