PASSIVE VOICE VS. ACTIVE VOICE: Put subjects in front of verbs.

Passive Voice (indirect, unrevised):
The process of composition and creating a painting was integrated by Richter in his conversations.

Active Voice (direct, revised):
Richter's conversations integrate the process of composition with creating a painting.

AUXILIARY VERBS: Find and revise the auxiliary verb:

Wordy: Emerson is developing his moral and spiritual character by reading many ancient texts.

Concise: Emerson develops his moral and spiritual character by reading many ancient texts.

NON-SPECIFIC VERBS: Find a better verb (precise). Avoid 'crutch' verbs such as use, utilize, employ, seem, etc.

Imprecise: Richter uses repetitive phrases to emphasize his arguments.

Precise: Richter's repetitive phrases emphasize his arguments.

NON-SPECIFIC NOUNS: Focus on the subject (poet, author, and/or thesis).

Indirect: The painter allows the reader to participate in the process of composing with a series of confessions.

Direct: The painter creates a sense of participation in his composition with a series of confessions.

UNRELATED PRONOUNS: Avoid yourself, me, or we/us or other personal pronouns as the subject.

Example: I / We / You / One can see that Thoreau's philosophical ramblings sometimes distract from practical advice.

Revised: Thoreau's philosophical ramblings sometimes distract from his practical advice.