RATIOCINATION

Ratiocinate: "To reason methodically and logically"

Directions:

1. Underline all sentences, alternating two colors. This shows sentence length.
   Comments:

2. Circle the first word of each sentence. Look at the circled words. Try to avoid repetition of first words. If a word begins a sentence three or more times in one paragraph, write the word in the margin and try to change it in the rewrite.
   Comments:

3. Draw a triangle around all "to be" verbs, for example: am, is, are, was, were, be, being, been. List the number identified on page one of your paper. Eliminate one-half of these in the rewrite. Use verbs that express more action; for example, change “He was angry” to “He yelled and screamed at everyone in the room.” Watch for passive voice. Change “He was angered by everyone in the room” to “Everyone in the room angered him.”
   Comments: