

## Vary Sentence Beginnings and Strengthen Opinion Using Modal Auxiliaries

Vary sentence beginnings to clarify the meaning of your ideas and add interest. Use modifying phrases to vary the beginnings of sentences. Remember to add a comma after a modifying phrase that begins a sentence.

**After considering several options**, the school district decided to invest more money in computer labs.

Modal auxiliaries are helping verbs; they work with the main verb to tell whether something is possible or necessary. **Can, could, may, might, must, should, will** and **would** are examples of modal auxiliaries.

Students **can** learn in many different ways. Teachers **should** incorporate more technology in the classroom.

**Use a modifying phrase from the box to vary the sentence beginnings.**

**Write each phrase on the line.**

Without a doubt

As a result

For these reasons

To begin with

By putting recyclables in marked containers

Implementing a school-wide recycling program would benefit our school in many ways. \_\_\_\_\_, it would make our school cleaner and more beautiful. \_\_\_\_\_, trash is a serious problem at our school. \_\_\_\_\_, students and staff could both be part of the solution. \_\_\_\_\_, money collected from recycling could be used to buy school supplies and playground equipment. \_\_\_\_\_, I support starting a recycling program at our school.

**Reword each underlined phrase using a modal auxiliary.**

1. There are many ways for people to help the environment.

\_\_\_\_\_

2. One idea is for people to carpool instead of riding alone.

\_\_\_\_\_

3. We have to find new ways to conserve water and keep it clean.

\_\_\_\_\_

# Edit for Correct Comma Usage and Spelling

Use a comma after a transition word or phrase or after a modifying phrase at the beginning of a sentence.

**For one thing,** dogs make great pets. **Similarly,** cats are also a popular choice.

**Unable to choose one over the other,** Beth came home with a dog and a cat.

Check for any misspelled words. Use a dictionary or glossary to check the spelling of any domain-specific words as well as any new or unfamiliar words.

**Underline the modifying phrase in each sentence. Insert a comma where one is needed.**

1. During her visit to the animal shelter Cassidy learned how to become a volunteer.
2. In order to participate she has to complete and submit an application.
3. Furthermore Cassidy must schedule an interview with the shelter director.
4. With this in mind she stopped by the director's office after her tour of the shelter.

**Circle each misspelled word. Write the correctly spelled word on the line.**

5. Endangered animals are at risk of becoming exstinked. \_\_\_\_\_
6. Unfortunatly, some species are disappearing at faster rates than others.  
\_\_\_\_\_
7. The loss of an animal's habitat can significantly threatin its survival. \_\_\_\_\_
8. Pollution and pestisides are two things that can permanently harm a habitat.  
\_\_\_\_\_