Common Mistakes: Pronouns

Pronouns need to be clear! Go through your paper and underline all pronouns. Are they confusing?

Unclear:

Einstein was a brilliant mathematician. This is how he was able to explain the universe.

Clear:

Einstein, who was a brilliant mathematician, used his ability with numbers to explain the universe.

Unclear:

Because Senator Martin is less interested in the environment than in economic development, he sometimes neglects it.

Clear:

Because of his interest in economic development, Senator Martin sometimes neglects the environment.

Be especially careful using:

- It
- They
- This
- That
- These
- Those
- Which