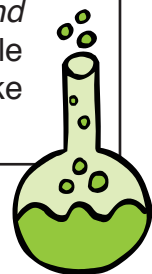


Chain Reaction Information Handout



A chain reaction contains *cause & effect*. To write a chain reaction effectively, we must avoid the “stringy” style of writing that results from the overuse of the words *and* and *so*.

When conversing, people often string their ideas together by using the words *and* and *so*. However, when people write a stringy sentence, their writing sounds juvenile and monotonous. Using the complex sentence, the participial phrase, and words like *therefore* and *consequently*—we can overcome this dilemma.



Stringy Sentence:

The massive mud puddle was slippery, and I fell in it, so I am dirty.

Correct stringy sentences in the following ways:

• **Complex Sentence:**

Since the massive mud puddle was slippery, I fell in it and got dirty.

• **Participial Phrase:** Use a participial phrase to combine sentences.

The massive mud puddle was slippery, causing me to fall. Now I am dirty.

Being slippery, the massive mud puddle caused me to fall. Now I am dirty.

• **Compound Sentence:**

The massive mud puddle was slippery; consequently, I fell and got dirty.

OR

The massive mud puddle was slippery; therefore, I fell. Now I am dirty.

OR

The massive mud puddle was slippery; consequently, I fell, making me dirty.

• **Two Separate Sentences**—the second beginning with *consequently* or *therefore*:

The massive mud puddle was slippery. Consequently, I fell and got dirty.



Beyond Academics, Inc.
Copyright 2020
All rights reserved

