



Revising for Dangling Participles Challenge

Identify which two of the following seven sentences in bold are correct.
(Hint: sentences 4 and 5 are identical, but only one is correct. Do see why?)

1. **Walking to the beach**, the clouds were menacing.
2. **Having raised tuition two years in a row**, students are racking up huge debt loads.
3. **By raising tuition**, students are forced into debt.
4. Tuition increases are a problem **By raising tuition**, it restricts access to education.
5. The university must make tough decisions **By raising tuition**, it restricts access to education.
6. **By raising tuition** restricts access to education.
7. **By raising tuition**, the university restricts access to education.

If you identified the fifth and seventh sentences as correct, bravo. The other five sentences in bold are problematic because they do not clearly indicate who is doing the action in the underlined phrase. In other (more technical) words, the participle (the -ed or -ing form of the verb) is dangling because it's not anchored with an agent (or "doer" of the action).

Getting rid of dangling participles will make your writing more clear, precise, and grammatical. You will also be more likely to use the active voice as an added bonus. (In case you are wondering, in active voice, the agent or "doer" of the action—comes before the verb.)

Three Revision Strategies

1. Aim for this pattern: By _____ ing . . . , _____
Action °Doer of the action right here
2. Replace the dangling participle with a subject and verb:
Example: **When the university raises tuition**, students often must rely on student loans.
When the university raises tuition, it forces students into debt.
3. Make the participle into the subject of the sentence (e.g., by getting rid of "by"):
Example: Raising tuition restricts access to education.

Exercise

Revise the four problem sentences below taken