

Active VS Passive Voice

Need to Know:

- Many professors may want students to use active voice over passive voice in assignments. This is because active voice is typically more clear and concise.
- The subject of a sentence is who or what the sentence is about. The object of a sentence is another noun that is not the subject.
- The active voice is when the subject of a sentence performs an action on an object.
- The passive voice is when the object does the action, and the subject receives the action.

Active Voice.

Active voice keeps the focus on the subject. The subject does the action, while the object receives (or is affected by) the action.

“The boy kicks the ball.”

→ In this case, the boy is the one doing the kicking. The ball is being affected by the boy’s action.

Passive Voice

Passive voice keeps the focus on the object. “To be” verbs are almost always used in passive voice.

“The tea was carefully poured by my younger sister.”

→ Although the sister is the one doing the pouring, the focus is on the tea.

Tip:

1. Choose when to use either active or passive voice based on what should be emphasized in the sentence.
 - a. Understanding the concept of active and passive voice can allow you to have greater control over what your readers focus on in your writing.