

### **Exercise: parallel structure**

*Fix the non-parallel sentence structure.*

1. The proposed transmission line is ugly, unsafe, and an environmental danger.
2. The process is slow, prone to politics, and robs all concerned of direct responsibility.
3. The applicants were all college graduates, of similar socioeconomic background, and interested in business careers.
4. Your cover letter should include information about your present employment and why you want to change jobs.
5. The problem is on the minds of millions of Americans, young and old and in all parts of the country, not only in Louisiana.
6. He has worked for the bank for many years, is knowledgeable about nearly all areas of banking, and will be an excellent addition to top management.
7. When people have to write from a point of view not their own, they betray this by hedging, blustering, an uneasy choice of words, and syntactical looseness.

*Suggested revisions:*

1. The proposed transmission line is ugly, unsafe, and hazardous to the environment.
2. The process is slow and prone to politics, robbing all concerned of direct responsibility.
3. The applicants were all college-educated, similar in socioeconomic background, and interested in business careers.
4. Your cover letter should include information about your present employment and explain why you want to change jobs.
5. The problem is on the minds of millions of young and old Americans in all parts of the country, not only in Louisiana.
6. Employed by the bank for many years and knowledgeable about nearly all areas of banking, he will be an excellent addition to top management.
7. When people have to write from a point of view not their own, they betray this by hedging, blustering, misusing words, and lapsing into syntactical looseness. *Or:* When people have to write from a point of view not their own, they betray this by an uneasy choice of words, syntactical looseness, and a tendency to hedge and bluster.

*(All examples from Cook. Line by Line. Houghton Mifflin, 1985.)*