San José State University Writing Center www.sjsu.edu/writingcenter
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Ugly things happen when we nominalize. **Nominalization** occurs when we turn a strong verb into a noun (usually a subject) and plug in a weak verb for the missing strong verb. Terrible things happen to the sentence: passive voice, unnecessary words, loss of agent, use of *to be* as a main verb, and incoherence. **Denominalizing** helps us create sentences that are clear, concise, and unified.

Locate verbs that are functioning as nouns and turn them into action words.

Nominalization: The detective conducted an

Remove nominalization from the following sentences.

- 1. The budget cuts for the Writing Center were the topic of our debate.
- 2. The intention of the jury is to reach a decision.
- 3. There is a need for reinforcement of this law.
- 4. We did a study of the progression of prostate cancer.
- 5. The delay of the flight was caused by the storm.
- 6. There was scorching of vegetation by the 2007 fires in Morgan Hill.
- 7. Our presentation was about a new regulation.
- 8. It was expected that our collection of data would be quick.
- 9. The coroner did an examination of the body.
- 10. A demand must exist for clean energy.
- 1. We debated the budget cuts for the Writing Center.
- 2. The jury intends to reach a decision.
- 3. The city government must reinforce this law.
- 4. We studied how prostate cancer progresses.
- 5. The storm delayed the flight.
- 6. The 2007 fires in Morgan Hill scorched vegetation.
- 7. We presented a new regulation.
- 8. We expected to collect data quickly.
- 9. The coroner examined the body.
- 10. Citizens must demand clean energy.