**Here are the notes we took about successful sentences. The bullet points are the sentences’ “good points”**

Writing is about expressing ideas, and the core of that expression is choosing words and arranging them in sentences. It sounds simple but of course it is incredibly difficult, especially to get your reader to understand the thought as it exists in your head.

I start to trace my left hand with the shaky and errant lines so characteristic of little kids’ drawings.

* Adjectives are unexpected and really specific
* Good comparison – paints a clear picture
* It’s 100% complete idea

In *Antigone*, the chorus serves as a ubiquitous observer that reports news to the public routinely.

* It uses the word ubiquitous to express a specific idea succinctly
* Starts with prepositional phrase that ends w comma
* The title is in italics
* The verbs are specific and convey information

*Antigone*, one of Sophocles’ Theban plays, is about the titular character’s defiance of Creon, the ruling king of a very corrupt Thebes.

* It is a very brief but effective plot summary
* Gives title and author and context quickly
* It isn’t repetitive – uses “titular character” to avoid saying Antigone twice
* Two appositives convey information quickly

Thoreau reasons that the citizens must be humane before they are subjects, or in other words they shouldn’t order harsh punishments on people but instead look at the culprits as human.

* “in other words” tactic where you clarify what the text says to serve your purposes
* “reasons” – stronger verb

Motives for rebellion first appear in Antigone and Creon’s conflicting ideas about loyalty.

* Topic sentence in body paragraph establishes WHERE we are in the play and introduces content
* Gives a concept control of a sentence rather than a character

In one of our daily lamentations about our lives, she tells me in one class she is getting Cs.

* Using hyperbolic language for comedic effect

The senior commons were filled with people drinking icy beverages.

* short, sweet, specific

The passage describes a wealthy, obese monsieur for whom the act of drinking hot chocolate requires several attendants, lest he should be so burdened as to do anything by himself.

* The word “lest” packs a punch and doesn’t waste a sentence
* Sums up a longer passage quickly
* Uses the construction to direct readers’ attention to what’s important