

The “Triple A” Structure: How to Recognize and Form Active Sentences

Recognize it...

<u>Actor (Subject)</u>	<u>Action (Verb)</u>	<u>Acted Upon (Object)</u>
But his harsh words	sent	<u>shivers</u> through us.
We	marched.	
Gates	opened and closed.	
My father	swallowed	<u>my ration</u> .
We	counted	<u>bolts, bulbs,</u> <u>and various small electrical</u> <u>parts.</u>
		from <i>Night</i> , by Elie Wiesel

<u>Actor (Subject)</u>	<u>Action (Verb)</u>	<u>Acted Upon (Object)</u>
The leader of the troop	unlocked	<u>his word-hoard</u> .
The distinguished one	delivered	<u>this address</u> :
“We	belong and owe	by birth <u>to the Geat people</u> <u>allegiance to Lord Hygelac</u> .

from *Beowulf* by Anonymous, trans. by Seamus Heaney

Put it into practice...

<u>Actor (Subject)</u>	<u>Action (Verb)</u>	<u>Acted Upon (Object)</u>
I	believe	
Wayne Williams	killed	<u>children</u> in Atlanta.
The police	heard	<u>a noise</u> coming from the bridge.
Wayne Williams	held	<u>a press conference</u> in his home.

This essay
Wayne Williams
City of Atlanta

argues that
committed
charged

all the murders the
him with.