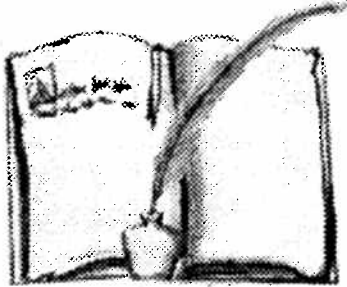


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The Writing Centre

Room SN-2053
Science Building
Tel: 737-3168
Email: writing@mun.ca



Hours: Mon. - Fri.
10:00am - 4:00pm
Further hours to be posted
on a term-by-term basis

www.mun.ca/writingcentre

CLICHÉS AND TRITE EXPRESSIONS

The following is a partial list of overused phrases that you should avoid in your prose – unless you have a very particular, well-thought-out reason for using them! These phrases have been compiled from a number of stylebooks; they are but a sampling of the wordy, overused expressions that writers should seek to translate into succinct and focused language of their own.

a brilliant performance
a chip off the old block
a crying shame
after all is said and done
all things being equal
arrived at the scene
as a last resort
as a matter of course
as a matter of fact
as an end result
as the crow flies
at a complete loss for words
at long last

at one fell swoop
at the crack of dawn
at this point in time
avoid _____ like the plague

beat a hasty retreat
beating around the bush
believe it or not
better late than never
bite the bullet
bounce back
budding genius
busy as a bee

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by leaps and bounds
by no means

conspicuous by its (his/her) absence
cool as a cucumber
corridors of power
crystal clear

destined for greatness
doomed to disappointment

easier said than done

few and far between
final outcome
first and foremost
follow in the footsteps of
for all intents and purposes
from dawn till dusk

gentle as a lamb
getting [his or her] just deserts
good as gold
grave danger

heated opposition
hit the spot
hoping against hope

if and when
in a manner of speaking
in a very real sense
in-depth study
in one ear and out the other
in no uncertain terms
in no way, shape or form
in the final analysis
in the foreseeable future
in the long run
in this day and age

integral part
it goes without saying
it stands to reason

last but not least
light as a feather
lock, stock, and barrel

make a beeline for
many and diverse
moment of truth

needless to say
nipped in the bud

off the beaten track
old as the hills
on the right track
once and for all
one and the same
one in a million
out of the blue

par for the course
playing with fire
pride and joy
proves conclusively

raining cats and dogs
rears its ugly head
rude awakening
rule with an iron fist

sadder but wiser
seeing is believing
selling like hotcakes
slowly but surely
sneaking suspicion
sowing wild oats
starting out at the bottom of the ladder

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step in the right direction
strike while the iron is hot
strong as an ox
supreme moment

tangible proof
the bottom line
the final straw
the top of the heap

unforeseen events/obstacles

vicious circle
vital role

water over the dam
when all is said and done
when push comes to shove
wrong side of the tracks