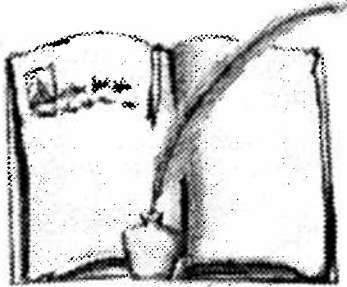


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# The Writing Centre

Room SN-2053  
Science Building  
Tel: 737-3168  
Email: [writing@mun.ca](mailto: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](http://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