

EXERCISE 15-1 Variety: Guided practice

The following paragraphs are grammatically correct but dull. Revise them to add variety. You may need to combine some sentences. The numbers in the margin refer to appropriate revision strategies in section 15 of *Rules for Writers*, Fifth Edition. The first revision has been done for you, and a suggested revision of this exercise appears in the back of the book.

Everyone has heard of Martin Luther King Jr. ^{After studying} ~~He studied~~ for the ministry at Boston University and ^{earning} ~~earned~~ a doctorate in theology, [^] ~~and then~~ he went home to the South to work as a minister. He started working in civil rights and became the most influential leader of that cause in America. When he died, the victim of an assassin's bullet, his name was almost synonymous with "civil rights." Historians and biographers have recorded his leadership in the fight to gain basic civil rights for all Americans. Many people who know of his civil rights work, however, are not aware of his skill as a writer. King produced other important writing in addition to his carefully crafted and emotional speeches. 15a, 15b
(See also 14c.)

King's "Letter from Birmingham Jail" is among his most famous writings. He wrote it to answer a statement published by eight Alabama ministers that King's work was "unwise and untimely," and the letter shows King to be a man who had great patience with his critics. King is eager to get these ministers to accept his point of view, so he reminds them that they are ministers. Their goodwill, he says, should help them see that his views hold value. He does not attack them personally. He analyzes their arguments. Then he presents his own views. Does he use many of the emotional appeals for which he is justly famous? No, in this letter King depends on logic and reasoning as the tools to win his argument. 15c

15a, 15b
(See also 14c.)

15b
(See also 14c.)

15b
(See also 14b.)