

Sea Never Dry Text Rewriting Samples

Text rewriting: A rewrite strips your text down to the basics and rebuilds it from the ground up.

[original, with errors]

The roller derby squad was organized by Thelma and Louise. They had always wanted to join a team together. Since high school. But they were never any good at sports. When Loise turned 30 that changed and, she heard about some gals in the next country who were getting together on weekends to play roller derby in the high school gym. This peeked her interest because if there was one thing she had been good at as a youngster it was roller skating. "And goodness knows I have some pent-up aggression to get out", she says to herself quietly. She talked it over with her best friend and that year, the Yell County Roller Derby League was born.

[text rewrite #1]

This sample reflects the imagined author's desire for text in a "narrative nonfiction" style, which is less casual than her own writing style and more journalistic and polished than her writing style. Using direction from the author and additional information from the author or text, I can bring the desired style out of the existing text through the rewriting process.

Thelma Haight and Louise Ashbury organized their county's first roller derby squad. The two women had dreamed of joining a team together since they had first met and become friends in high school —but neither girl had ever been any good at sports. "If it involved a ball, a bat, or a racquet, forget about it!" Thelma later joked to a reporter from the Yell County Bugler. As Louise approached her thirtieth birthday, she drew up a bucket list, a rundown of all the things she hoped to accomplish in her life. Item 15: join a sports team. When she heard about some women in the next county who got together on weekends to play roller derby in the high school gym, she knew she had found the sport she was looking for. If there was one thing she had been good at as a youngster, it was roller skating. And goodness knows I have some pent-up aggression to get out, she thought to herself. She talked it over with Thelma, and in June of 1985, the Yell County Roller Derby League was born.

[text rewrite #2]

This rewrite reflects the kinds of changes I would make if the author wanted to create basic text that would accommodate adults at a range of reading levels, as well as younger readers.

The ma and Louise set up the first roller derby team in their county. They had wanted to join a team together since high school. They were never any good at sports, though. When Louise turned thirty, she heard about some other women who played roller derby in the next county. She thought that was really exciting. She had always been good at roller skating. And she liked to hit things! She talked it over with her best friend Thelma. Later, that year, they started the Yell County Roller Derby League.

- Deleted: The
- Deleted: was organized by Thelma and Louise
- Deleted: y
- Deleted: always wanted to
- Deleted: . S
- Comment: This quote was in footnote 3 in chapter 2, but it works much better here.
- Deleted: . B
- Deleted: they were never
- Deleted: When
- Deleted: turned
- Deleted: 30,
- Deleted: gals
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- Deleted: were getting
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- Deleted:
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- Deleted: gals in the next country who were getting together on weekends to
- Deleted: high school gym
- Deleted: This peeked her interest because if there was one thing
- Deleted: s
- Deleted: as a youngster it was
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- Deleted: "
- Deleted: goodness knows I have some pent-up aggression to get out", she says to herself quietly
- Deleted: .
- Deleted: and
- Deleted: was born