Using the Passive Voice

**What is passive voice?**
In the Passive Voice, the subjects of a sentence become the objects of the sentence. This is in contrast to the Active Voice, in which the subject *acts* in the sentence. Writers should use the active voice instead of the passive voice unless there is a good reason for choosing the passive voice.

### Passive Voice...

- **Verbs include any form of “to be”**
  - Such as *am, is, are, were, was, be, been, being.*

- **Should be used when the writer does not want to emphasise the subject**

- **Should be used when the subject is unknown**

### Passive Voice looks like...

- **We did not take down the party decorations until yesterday.**

- **The party decorations were not taken down until yesterday.**

- **Writers should use the active voice.**

- **The active voice should be used by writers.**

- **No one has discovered a cure for cancer, as of yet.**

- **A cure for cancer has not yet been discovered.**