Voice (Active and Passive)

**Voice:** The form of a transitive verb (one that takes an object) that indicates whether or not the subject performs the action denoted by the verb.

A verb with a direct object and a subject that does the acting and is in the **active** voice.

**Example:** Priscilla chose John. (the subject Priscilla acts).

Choose the active voice whenever possible because it strengthens the action.

When the direct object is converted into a subject, the verb is in the **passive** voice.

**Example:** John was chosen by Priscilla. (the subject John does not act).

A passive verb is always a verb phrase consisting of a form of the verb “be” followed by the past participle. Passive voice weakens the action.

**Examples:**

**Active:** The average shopper pays little attention to cheap, nutritious foods.

**Passive:** Little attention is being paid by the average shopper to cheap, nutritious foods.

**Active:** The tourists often throw pennies into the fountain.

**Passive:** Pennies are thrown into the fountain by tourists.

**Active:** My brother manipulates other people.

**Passive:** Other people are manipulated by my brother.

**Active:** Mary loves John.

**Passive:** John is loved by Mary.