Writing Discussion #2: Being Concise and Clear

Good books to use:

Strunk and White, *Elements of Style*
Joseph Williams, *Style*
Diana Hacker, *A Writer’s Reference* (or another grammar book)

A summary of our discussion on concision and clarity: 1. Make sentences active, not passive. 2. Have a strong subject (often a person or group) as your main actor and a strong verb that shows this subject acting or doing things. 3. Omit unnecessary words.

How could we make these clear and direct?

There was real anger in Frederick Douglass because of Christianity and slavery. The most famous black abolitionist of all, and former slave, Frederick Douglass was angry about Christianity and slavery.

Using guilt as a tactic resulted in Christian participation being thrust back into the hands of the worshippers. Rather than merely an emphasis on figuring out where one stood in God’s eyes, weight was on the cost of living a life far from God. [On Edwards’s preaching style.]

Very important in Puritan society was the belief in predetermined salvation of God’s elect

On the other hand, John Winthrop’s “Christian Experience” written in 1637 is an account rife with his own personal struggles to accept God’s grace rather than give in to his own human depravity.

Jonathan Edwards’ “Sinners in the hands of an angry God” details his own views on the nature of God’s wrath against the sinner and the unsaved, and the place in which man exists in relation to God.

Through the development of certain criteria proposed by John Calvin this idea of being certain that you where saved could be achieved by following his criteria.

A marked characterization of Puritans is the personal religious experience.

The confessional narratives of Native Americans in Puritan New England during the early 17th century illustrate not merely a conversion to Christianity but realignment of identity from Native American to English culture.