



Using “You” and “I”

Examples

Using “you”: You need to fetch some apples from the grocery store.

Using “I”: I need to fetch some apples from the grocery store.

Not using “you” or “I”: Someone needs to fetch some apples from the grocery store.

-OR-

Fetch some apples from the grocery store.

Reasons to *Avoid* Using You and I:

- Makes writing sound subjective, unprofessional, and casual
- Distracts from the topic of the paper
- Isolates the reader

Reasons to *Use* You and I

- **You:** In instructional essays, promotional writing, broad address
- **I:** In personal statement, anecdote in paper, methodology section of research papers, “They Say I Say” paper



Activity

Try to rewrite the sentence by removing "you" or "I."

I believe the age requirement for a Connecticut Fishing License should be lower to include children ages 12 and older.

It is important that you recycle any plastics or glass instead of throwing them out in the trash bin.

When I add food coloring to my mixture of vinegar, water, and dish soap, the liquid will turn red to imitate the look of lava.

In order for you to make a traditional peanut butter and jelly sandwich, you must first buy all the necessary ingredients.



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