REVISING ACTIVE/PASSIVE CONSTRUCTIONS
Instructor: Julia Goodwin

1. Brief Description of in-class writing exercise:
   Designed to facilitate revision centering on conversion of weak constructions to strong (active) constructions.

2. Context for the exercise:
   Revision of second (compare/contrast) formal writing assignment

3. Goal(s) of the exercise:
   See #1

4. Common results of the exercise:
   Most students experienced surprise and pleasure at seeing how much more impetus the strong construction contrived.

5. Student responses to the exercise:
   Mainly positive - found it helpful. Some students remained confused.

EXERCISE:

Revise each of the following sentences so that they contain an "actor" and a strong verb.
(The following is a sampling of the sentences in the original exercise.)

1. One important aspect of both these authors' work is the characterization of the main characters in each respective work.
2. Their (Shalamov's characters) conversation is impersonal at best.
3. This is a strength with regard to Solzhenitsyn's choice of genre.
4. Because he chose this format Shalamov is able to combine the pathos of his personal experience with the presentation of a view from several angles.
5. Chukovskaya's choice of genre is what allows her to establish her theme, such as Sofia Petrovna's blindness, with such sufficiency.
6. It is because of Akhmatova's extensive knowledge about the purges that her poetry is made even harder to grasp.