

## **Using Passive and Active Voice**

Professors often require that you avoid using passive voice and, instead, keep your writing in active voice. The professor has good reason for such a requirement because active voice is direct while passive voice is, well, passive. But why? And what exactly is voice, anyway?

### ***Definition***

### ***Use of passive voice***

So when should passive voice be used? (Did you notice that the previous sentence is written in passive voice?) Two major reasons exist for using passive voice:

- The writer wants to focus on the receiver of the action, not the doer.
- The doer of the action is not known, or is not important.

Sentence number 3 above is an example of a good