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**Precis 2**

**Q. Make a precis of the following passage and suggest a suitable title.**

We lawyers cannot write plain English. We use eight words to say what could be said in two. We use old, arcane phrases to express commonplace ideas. Seeking to be precise, we become redundant. Seeking to be cautious, we become verbose. Our sentences twist on, phrase within clause within clause, glazing the eyes and numbing the minds of our readers. The result is a writing style that has, according to one critic, four outstanding characteristics. It is: "(1) wordy, (2) unclear, (3) pompous, and (4) dull."

Criticism of lawyers' writing is nothing new. In 1596 an English chancellor decided to make an example of a particularly prolix document filed in his court. The chancellor first ordered a hole cut through the center of the document, all 120 pages of it. Then he ordered that the person who wrote it should have his head stuffed through the hole, and the unfortunate fellow was led around to be

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ordered that the person who wrote it should have his head stuffed through the hole, and the unfortunate fellow was led around to be exhibited to all those attending court at Westminster Hall.

When the common law was transplanted to America, the writing style of the old English lawyers came with it. In 1817 Thomas Jefferson lamented that in drafting statutes his fellow lawyers were accustomed to "making every other word a 'said' or 'aforesaid,' and saying everything over two or three times, so that nobody but we of the craft can untwist the diction, and find out what it means."

In recent times criticism of lawyers' writing has taken on a new intensity. The popular press castigates lawyers for the "frustration, outrage, or despair" a consumer feels when trying to puzzle through an insurance policy or installment loan agreement. President Carter has ordered that new regulations of the federal executive agencies must be "written in plain English" that is "understandable to those who must comply" with them.' A recently enacted New York State statute requires consumer contracts to be written "in a clear and cogent

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must comply with them. A recently enacted New York State statute requires consumer contracts to be written "in a clear and cogent manner using words with common and everyday meanings." Within the legal profession itself, the criticism has mounted. Attorney Ronald Goldfarb charges that, by writing as we do, we "unnecessarily mystify our work, baffle our clients, and alienate the public. We could change this, and we should."

**Precis 3**      **Make a precis of the Comprehension passage 2 ("Truth?" you question . . . . .) and suggest a suitable title.**

**Comprehension 1**      **Read the passage and answer the following questions.**  
**Questions:**  
 Water is the basis of all life. Every animal and every plant contains a substantial proportion of free or combined water in its body, and no kind of physiological activity is possible in which the fluid does not play an essential part. Water is, of course, necessary for animal life



DATE: / /

## Precise # 02

### Criticism on lawyers' writings

Lawyers' English writing is not straightforward. They are verbose and used phrases which are known to very few. Their writings are unclear, self-important and dull. Therefore, criticism of lawyers in this regard is not new. In 1817, Thomas Jefferson regretted after saw their fellows lawyers' writing style where they did repetition. Currently, criticism has surged because consumers frustrated, despaired and confused while dealing with insurance policy and loan agreement. Consequently, President Carter has ~~commanded~~ commanded to write the new regulation of the agencies in simple English, so that consumers may not face difficulty. Moreover, in New York state consumers contracts passed in a clear and convincing way with everyday meaning. Besides, this criticism ~~critic~~ has also increased in within legal profession as Attorney Ronald said that they made things difficult for themselves, their clients and public. So they needed to change it.

Precise = 139 words