























### Saint FRED of Pittsburgh



Why Fred Rogers is the Patron Saint of B2B Marketers



### He was a CHILD of B2B

















### (we took this picture)

## MCFEELYLATROBEBRICK CQ+DIECAST



We know. The cuteness is palpable.



Viewers like you + B2B



### He was a MASTER COMMUNICATOR

### 4,000 letters per year 15 letters per day



### He was a MASTER COMMUNICATOR



He knew we could do BETTER



# NOST PEOPLE THINK We are a great domestic airline. WE HATE THAT

and the second second second



### "Hate is such a strong word to use so lightly. If they can hate something like that, you wonder how easy it would be for them to hate something more important."







He knew we we could do BETTER "Create a holiday-themed display that expresses your brand message."









### The Patron Saint of B2B








Visit your production floor neighbors. When I was a boy and I would see scary things in the news, my mother would say to me, "Look for the helpers. You will always find people who are helping." How does my company make the world work better?





















"The space between the television set and the viewer is holy ground."











# **Exercise simplicity.**

It's our job to ease peoples' minds, not burden them with more complexity.

#### (not actual cover)



## Let's talk about Freddish

Let's talk about Freddish

1.

State the idea you wish to express as clearly as possible, and in terms preschoolers can understand. Let's talk about Freddish

*"It is dangerous to play in the street."* 





Let's talk about Freddish

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2.

## Rephrase in a positive manner.

*"It is good to play where it is safe."* 





Let's talk about Freddish

3.

Rephrase the idea, bearing in mind that preschoolers cannot yet make subtle distinctions and need to be redirected to authorities they trust. *"Ask your parents where it is safe to play."* 

Let's talk about Freddish







## Let's talk about Freddish

### WRITING FOR B2B

A POCKET STYLE GUIDE





#### **GUIDELINES:**

Sentences should rarely\* exceed 25 words

 Your average sentence should not exceed 18 words (aim for 15)

Paragraphs should rarely exceed
100 words and 3-5 sentences

\* Word-counts can go higher when you're cataloging phrases or connecting independent clauses. But remember: A longer sentence calls for a stronger rhythm. (See rule #3.)

#### WARNING SIGN: Multiple-choice sentences

Each sentence should make a statement, not dozens of potential statement-combinations. If your sentence reads like a *Choose Your Own*  *Adventure* novel, you should either consolidate or divide. Which of these you do will depend on the context.

#### Multiple choice:

"Global market forces and conditions will often slow down and inhibit the efforts of your distributors, buyers or OEMs."

#### Consolidated:

"Global market forces will often complicate your customers' efforts."

#### Consolidated/Divided:

"Global market forces will often complicate your distributors' efforts. This is equally true for buyers and OEMs."



#### WARNING SIGN: Preposition farming

Overlong sentences are often strung together by an excess of prepositional phrases. If you cut down on these, you may find opportunities to reduce your sentence length.

#### 7 prepositional phrases; 28 words: "Customers can reduce ownership costs by investing in a system with efficient features that ensure consistent output with lower levels of energy consumption over long periods of time."

#### 3 prepositional phrases; 19 words:

"Customers can reduce ownership costs by purchasing an efficient system that ensures consistent output with lower long-term energy consumption."



#### WARNING SIGN: Five-dollar words

Never use a five-dollar word when a fifty-cent word will do. Here are a few words that you should almost never <del>utilize</del>:

- Utilize ("use" is better)
- Optimal ("best" is better)
- Initiate ("start" is better)



# **Exercise simplicity.**





# We're lucky.

# B2B is lucky to have you.







It's such a good feeling / A very good feeling / The f you know / Tha /'ll be b When the day is n An have more ideas for you'll have things y to talk about / I wi

