

# IN-CLASS ACTIVITIES: PASSIVE VOICE CONSTRUCTION

## #1. TAKE A LOOK

Below is a concordance of passive structures commonly used by STEM students in their writing assignments. Read the concordance and then answer the questions below.

1	Caffeinated alcoholic beverage consumption is	associated	with binge drinking among Canadian college students.
2	These diseases are	associated	with oxygen depletion.
3	The following models are	based	on habitat-level or theoretical data.
4	Various methods will all be	compared	to find the most valuable cellular resultants.
5	Low levels of resistance have been	detected	during the use of immunotherapy drugs.
6	The specifications of the processor are	determined	by a series of tests called binning.
7	Interviews are to be	done	by 6 July, 2016.
8	The general public needs to be	educated	on the correct scientific data regarding vaccines.
9	Several pages of illustrations and graphs can be	found	at the end of the article after the list of references.
10	The bar-headed goose can generally be	found	in altitudes of over 9000 meters.
11	These proteins are	found	in brown adipose tissue.
12	The most common types of fish that are	grown	in aquaculture systems are tilapia, catfish, and flounder.
13	The malicious entities have to be	known	ahead of time to prevent them from attacking.
14	Cysteinyl leukotrienes are	known	to cause inflammatory bowel disease and arthritis.
15	This process forces the entity to be	measured	and verified.
16	In past experiments, the thyroid hormone has been	measured	in birds to check its effects on mitochondrial oxidation.
17	This protein has shown to be	produced	when the animal is stressed such as in cold environments.
18	Overall, if these workers are	provided	with training, accidents will decrease.
19	The technique has a considerable impact and will be	shown	in the sections to follow.
20	These factors have been	shown	to influence the severity and treatment of NAS.

- 1) What verbs are used? Do they have a common meaning?
- 2) What are the nouns preceding the verbs? Are they referring to people or to objects?
- 3) Why do you think the students chose the passive rather than the active structure in these examples?

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## **# 2 DATA DIGGING**

- 1) Run a concordance of “analyzed” and sort it according to 1L, 2L, and 3L. How many hits do you retrieve? In how many hits is “analyzed” used in active and passive voice, respectively? What are some of the subjects that occur with “analyzed”?
- 2) Now run a concordance for “found” (keep the sorting 1L, 2L, and 3L). Most of the instances of “found” are in the passive voice, but a few are not. What are the subjects occurring with “found” in the active voice?