

Original sentence: The dog ran.

Version #1:

That dog ran. Like a streak of crazy lightning, he bolted first towards the jungle gym, then towards the sandbox, and finally he headed towards the swings. The children stopped playing to watch. Later, they guessed the poor Chihuahua might have been rubbed over with itching powder. Some of the kids thought he maybe had just awakened from a terrible nightmare about a gigantic cat or a postman with a laser beams in his eyes. Just as quickly as he had come, the yelping beast was suddenly gone. The children went back to playing.

Version #2:

Like a streak of crazy lightning, the little dog bolted first towards the jungle gym, then towards the sandbox, and finally he headed towards the swings. The children stopped playing to watch. Later, they guessed the poor Chihuahua might have been rubbed over with itching powder. Some of the kids thought he maybe had just awakened from a terrible nightmare about a gigantic cat or a postman with a laser beams in his eyes. Just as quickly as he had come, the yelping beast was suddenly gone. The children went back to playing. The dog ran...somewhere else.

Three trait discussion questions:

1. How well did these paragraphs vary sentence beginnings? (Sentence Fluency)
2. How well did these paragraphs vary sentence lengths? Could the rhythm be improved? (Sentence Fluency)
3. What did the original sentence work best as, in your opinion? The introduction? Or the conclusion? (Organization)