



SAN DIEGO COURT REPORTER AT LARGE

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Having been a court reporter in San Diego since 1981, I have seen changes in writing styles by court reporters who want to “save time” or write fewer strokes. One of the habits I have seen lately is court reporters leaving out punctuation. I assume the goal is to be able to write testimony faster if you don’t write in the punctuation. Leaving out commas, semicolons, and paragraphs is a dangerous habit to get into, because sooner or later a court reporter will need to pass a speed test, certification test, or write realtime.

One trick I use is to global punctuation into phrases. If you global , *in fact*, (including the commas) and hit the phrase in one stroke, voila, you are saving three strokes. FAICT can be the brief. A court reporter can do the same thing with (no space); *is that correct* or (no space); *is that right?*

One of the brilliant tricks is to write a brief for **dashes A. Yes. Q. dashes**. For instance,

Q. Were you at the house when –

A. Yes.

Q. – the people came in?

I have a client that constantly says: *Strike that. Let me start over again*. I write SLAIG. (And that includes a new paragraph in the brief.)

I used to write everything out. I was wasting energy and time. I never left out punctuation, but I would get exhausted after writing 250+ pages (more exhausted than I do now anyway).

My advice to all court reporters, keep working on saving strokes and writing cleaner. You will have a much better life.



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