

KYLE BISHOP
PRONOUNS

Pronoun: A word that replaces or represents a noun.

Antecedent: The noun being replaced or represented by the pronoun.

* Pronouns must always agree with their antecedents in both number and gender. In addition, pronouns must represent the appropriate case and voice.

	Subjective Case		Objective Case		Possessive Case	
	<u>Sing.</u>	<u>Plural</u>	<u>Sing.</u>	<u>Plural</u>	<u>Sing.</u>	<u>Plural</u>
First Person (speaking)	I	we	me	us	my mine	our ours
Second Person (spoken to)	you	you	you	you	your yours	your yours
Third Person (spoken of)	he she it	they	him her it	them	his her/hers its	their theirs

Number: A plural antecedent must have a plural pronoun; a singular antecedent must have a singular pronoun.

Gender: If the antecedent has a clear gender, a gender appropriate pronoun must be used. Avoid showing any bias in writing, especially gender bias with pronouns.

Biased Language: *A student must do his homework.*

Avoid the Bias:

Use plurals: *All students must do their homework.*

Use both: *A student must do his/her homework.*

Avoid the pronoun: *A student must do homework.*

But never mix: *A student must do their homework.*

Case: Subjective case pronouns are used as subjects, objective case pronouns are the objects of either verbs or prepositions, and possessive pronouns show ownership.

Voice: First person pronouns refer to the author; second person, the audience; and third person, anyone else being referred to in the text.