Precision of words and concise language in the absence of redundant text can help to simplify and clarify your writing.

Directions: Underline the unnecessary words or phrases below:

Example: They were large in size.
Answer: They were large in size.

1. The members of the Student Council will come up with a final decision through a vote next week at an open meeting.

2. The twins were both alike; each had curly blonde hair, a rosy complexion, and pretty features.

3. It is absolutely essential to include vanilla in the recipe alongside other ingredients.

4. Debbie did a lot of research on the case at law school and she previously found that the responsible party was found not guilty.

5. The vote for the new board member was not completely unanimous when Dr. Roberts refused to go along with the others.

Write a new, more concise sentence excluding the underlined expletive or other phrase that can be simplified.

6. There are weaknesses with the plan.

7. There are not any reasons to make that decision.

8. The youth, all old enough to know better, got into trouble and were arrested.

9. The woman Geoffrey dated had to be careful to avoid his wife.

10. Some soldiers refused to obey orders and left behind their comrades in the firefight.
ANSWERS:

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Write a new, more concise sentence excluding the underlined expletive or other phrase that can be simplified.

6. The plan has weaknesses.
7. That decision lacks merit.
8. The teenagers got into trouble and were arrested.
9. The mistress had to be careful to avoid his wife.
10. Some soldiers refused to obey orders and abandoned their comrades in the firefight.