## Comprehension Questions William Zinsser "On Writing Well." Ch. 3 Clutter

1. What is the problem with writing "at this point in time" opposed to "now?"

2. The author says "up" in "free up" shouldn't be there. What does the author mean by this?

3. Paragraph three says "The personal friend has come into the language to <u>distinguish</u> him or her from the business friend..."

What does the author mean by distinguish?

- 4. Which word does the author identify as "one of the worst clutterers?"
- 5. The author says "clutter is the ponderous <u>euphemism</u> that turns a slum into a depressed socioeconomic area..."

What is a <u>euphemism</u>?

6. The author says "clutter is the official language used by corporations to hide their mistakes." Explain--in your own words--what the author means by this.

7. Why do you think George W. Bush would use the term "collateral damage" instead of "civilian casualties?"

8. What did the author's students at Yale do to help limit clutter?

9. What does the author mean by "look for clutter in your writing and prune it ruthlessly?"

10. Summarize this chapter in roughly 20 words.