SUBJECT:

“[T]he function of the pronoun (typically the 3PP [3rd person personal pronoun]) as a ‘substitute’ for a noun or NP is commonly and traditionally seen as a stylistic one, namely that of avoiding the repetition of a (normally previously mentioned) noun or NP. So Phythian (1980: 84) sees the pronoun as a ‘shorthand’ device to ‘avoid using the full [NP]’. Its function as an alternative to the NP would seem to be motivated by considerations of information processing: it is used for economy of expression and ease of comprehension, unless there is potential ambiguity.”


Discuss.

Candidates will use relevant excerpts from the following corpus to address the above topic.
Excerpt 1
I bought the camera and a 4gb sd card.
When I turn it on, the camera says that the card is not formatted for the camera and can not
record movies.

"How to Format sd Card", http://www.flickr.com/, 2010

Excerpt 2
Oh that is a lovely hat and it suits you so nicely!
I just spent a while re-reading all your blog posts, it was so enjoyable I really do love your blog.
xx Carina

http://www.emmawashere.com/, 2011

Excerpt 3
Although a dog can't speak and has no hands and fingers for gesturing as humans do, you can
watch key parts of his body to determine how he's feeling and reacting to the world around him.
Face. Although the dog's facial muscles are not as refined as a human's, he can wrinkle or
straighten his forehead to show confusion or determination. If your dog wants you to give him
further direction, he may raise his eyelids quizzically and tilt his head to one side.
Eyes. […]


Excerpt 4
If all the residents are looking out for each other, their children, and put safety first, noone should
get upset if they are questioned. It prevents unsupervised kids from coming over from other
neighborhoods and using our pool. IF IT LOOKS SUSPICIOUS, ASK! No harm done.

http://www.riverchasehoawylie.com/information/pool_rules_and_information, 2011

Excerpt 5
How do you deal with everyone thinking they know better than you? I have a 2 1/2 year old boy.
From the moment he was born, everyone in my family had an opinion on the choices I was making
in raising my child.

http://www.circleofmoms.com/, 2011

Excerpt 6
The team in Auckland has always been very helpful. Great place of support when you feel alone,
need safety and calming down... especially at the start. The team really has the ability to feel with
the participants. All my wishes for my time in New Zealand have come true, when I was looking for
a job I was getting heaps of email support from the office with great job offers. Any idiot could find
a job with this sort of support, even when they have never had a job before!


Excerpt 7
A couple of weeks ago my ex-student teacher, Stacy, showed up with this picture and its story.
About four years ago she had a bad car accident in her VW Beetle (old one). She loved that car.
She fell asleep on the wheel and never knew she had the accident. She later awoke in the hospital
with tubes in a bad shape. Recently the young man who bought her totaled car called her to tell
her that he fixed the car and would like to show it to her. She agreed and invited him to stop at her
family's home. When she saw the car in such excellent shape, she got excited and asked the young
man if she could take a picture of him and the car, and he agreed.
She took the picture, but when her mother saw the developed picture, she asked her what she was
doing inside her new car (parked in the garage). She asked how could she be inside the car if she
was taking the picture!

http://www.anomalies-unlimited.com/, 2012

Excerpt 8
"It was at an Oscar party... he goes, ‘Danny, do you like coffee?’ and I go, ‘Yeah, David, I like
coffee!’ And he goes, ‘Why don’t you come over to the house and we’ll have some coffee.’ So he
played for me... and he has a really nice studio in his house... he lays his guitar in his lap, and he’s
right handed, but he lays it left-handed.”

http://www.splicetoday.com/, 3 March 2011
Excerpt 9
There are two online resources I recommend beginning electronic musicians read. Both are free, and both do a nice job of explaining most basic synthesis concepts you are likely to run into. Both require registration to download, but they are free and are both well-done and informative, so it's worth the hassle. [...] Once you've read up a bit on how synthesis works (don't worry if you don't understand it all right away, there is a LOT to learn, and it takes time and practice to understand), it's time to get some hands-on experience.


Excerpt 10
1. Bring the chicken stock to the boil in a medium saucepan. Add the carrots, celery, onion and garlic.
2. Reduce heat to low and add the chicken. Cover and simmer for 20 minutes.
3. Carefully remove the chicken, cut it into small pieces, and return it to the pot. Stir in the coriander and serve.


Excerpt 11
I smiled to him as he walked over to us and told him "Here's your sign." He paused for a second then started to laugh and shake his head.

http://www.bestbeginnermotorcycles.com, 2010

Excerpt 12
As Al saw it, there was only one solution. He had to get rid of the dog without Betty or the kids finding out about it. At night. It would have to be done at night. He would simply drive Suzy – well, someplace, later he'd decide where – open the door, push her out, drive away. The sooner the better. He felt relieved making the decision. Any action was better than no action at all, he was becoming convinced.

Raymond Carver, Short Cuts, 1993

Excerpt 13
Condoleezza Rice
Academic, Republican politician. Born November 14, 1954 in Birmingham, Alabama. The only child of a Presbyterian minister and a teacher, Rice grew up surrounded by racism in the segregated South. She earned her bachelor's degree in political science from the University of Denver in 1974; her master's from the University of Notre Dame in 1975; and her Ph.D. from the Graduate School of International Studies at the University of Denver in 1981. She joined Stanford University as a political science professor in 1981. In 1993, she was the first woman and first African American to become a Stanford provost, a post she held for six years. In the mid-1980s, Rice spent a period in Washington as an international affairs fellow attached to the Joint Chiefs of Staff. In 1989, she became director of Soviet and East European affairs with the National Security Council and special assistant to George Bush during the dissolution of the Soviet Union and German reunification. In 1997, she served on the Federal Advisory Committee on Gender-Integrated Training in the Military.

http://www.biography.com/, 2012

Excerpt 14
The journal ran a series of photographs showing how this ingenious rat solved a problem that bothered him. The rat's private shelter was separated from the hot, exposed area where it had to eat its meals by a foot-high plank. Its meal was always served in a small bowl. The rodent was obviously annoyed that it had to eat in a hot, exposed place and it began trying to find some way to get the bowl of food over the plank into its shelter. Finally it moved the bowl over to the base of the plank. Then, climbing up on the plank, it curled its hind feet and tail over the top of the plank and stretched down as far as it could and just managed to get its teeth around the rim of the bowl. Slowly it backed up over the plank and deposited the bowl on the other side, without spilling a morsel of food!