THE NOUN CLAUSE

Recognize a noun clause when you find one.

Any clause—main (or independent), subordinate (or dependent), adjective (or relative)—that functions as a noun is a noun clause.

Consider this sentence:

Our plates and cups are always tacky with residue because of Yolanda's inefficient method of washing dishes.

*Method* = noun.

If we replace *method* with a clause, we have a noun clause:

Our plates and cups are always tacky with residue because of how inefficiently Yolanda washes dishes.

*How inefficiently Yolanda washes dishes* = noun clause.

Know the functions that noun clauses serve.

Since a noun can function as a subject, subject complement, or object, a noun clause can do the same.

Read these examples:

*You rock!* is the affirmation Benjamin says to the mirror every morning before he leaves the house.

*You rock!* = subject.

Dad's favorite advice is "*Do not sweat the small stuff.*"

*Do not sweat the small stuff* = subject complement.

During the family meeting, Harry presented *what he discovered in Mona's incriminating diary.*
**What he discovered in Mona's incriminating diary** = **direct object**.

Grandma always saves one turkey leg for **whoever gave her the best Christmas present**.

**Whoever gave her the best Christmas present** = **indirect object**.

For the long drive to Atlanta, Darren wants to ride with **whoever has the best audio system**.

**Whoever has the best audio system** = **object of the preposition**.