Active and Passive Voice

When used in writing, Voice indicates the relationship between a verb and its subject.

- **Active Voice** - emphasizes an actor and an action by having the actor as the subject
  - *ex.* “Sally drove the car” - The actor is emphasized.

- **Passive Voice** - emphasizes the receiver or result of the action, sometimes omitting the actor entirely.
  - *ex.* “The car was driven by Sally” or “The car was driven” - The receiver (the car) is emphasized.

The use of passive voice, in itself, is not a grammatical error. In fact, it is often used by politicians to avoid responsibility - “Taxes will be raised”

Because the actor is not emphasized when using the passive voice, it can make the writing seem imprecise. Passive voice is often frowned upon in academic writing.

However, it is important to consider the rhetorical situation when deciding whether to use active or passive voice.