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This Draft FAFSA (as compared to prior years' PDF FAFSAs) has recast all of the questions in the third person rather than the second person, which is difficult to follow and unnecessarily wordy and complicated. In previous PDF FAFSAs, questions were asked of respondents in the second person. For example, on the 2023-2024 PDF FAFSA, question 26 reads "What will your college grade level be when you begin the 2023-2024 school year?" The 2024-2025 draft PDF FAFSA asks the same question in section 4 with less clear wording: "When the student begins the 2024–25 school year, what will their college grade level be?" The rationale for this shift is unclear—the third-person framing is strained, impersonal, bureaucratic, and confusing.

The "Student Spouse" wording is also confusing. It suggests that the contributors this section is a spouse who is also a student, rather than the applicant's spouse. It would be clearer to call this section "Student's Spouse" and include this apostrophized term in all subsequent references to the student's spouse. Again, the questions be posed directly to the individual required to complete the section—i.e., with the 2nd person "you" phrasing instead of the unnecessarily stilted 3rd-person phrasing.

The "Parent Spouse or Partner" has the same word choice issues described above with regard to the student's spouse. "Parent's Spouse or Partner" is clearer and more precise. For both the "Parent" and "Parent's Spouse or Partner" sections, recasting the questions so they are posed directly to the person submitting the information (i.e., in the 2nd person) would improve clarity and simplicity.