Judicious use of *It is...*

Summary of pp.112-113 of "The Technical Writer's Handbook" by Matt Young

*It is...* at the beginning of a sentence can make one's writing more powerful if used correctly!

For example:

- *It is the high coherence of the laser that gives it its remarkable properties.*

The last sentence is much stronger than:

- The high coherence of the laser gives it its remarkable properties.

But most of the time *it* is completely meaningless. So remember, do not use following phrases because they add no emphasis to your writing:

- *It should be noted that...* means I think that...
- *It can be shown that...* means I would like to believe that...
- *It is reasonable that...* should be replaced by Therefore...
- *It is conceivable that...* means I would like to believe that...
- *It follows that...* should be replaced by Therefore...
- *It is probable that...* should be replaced by Probably...
- *It was desired...* should be replaced by We wanted to...
- *It is clear from fig. 3...* Clear to whom? Fig. 3 shows...

Also, *it* in the middle of a sentence can be eliminated, if it does not add any meaning or intensity to your writing:

- *I would like to make it clear that...* I would like to make clear that...