Unity and Coherence

Paragraph Construction

Maintaining **unity** in a paragraph necessitates that every sentence in a paragraph or every paragraph in a composition should be closely related to the topic. A strong paragraph will eliminate sentences that do not relate or help develop the paragraph’s main idea. Thus, a unified composition will only have paragraphs that are crucial to developing the thesis.

**Unity Checklist**

- __________________________
- __________________________
- __________________________
- __________________________
- __________________________

Maintaining **coherence** in a paragraph or composition not only requires unity, but also a logical, smooth, and natural flow from one idea to another. When this occurs, coherence has been established.

**Transitional Devices**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>also, in the same way, just as ... so too, likewise, similarly</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>but, however, in spite of, on the one hand ... on the other hand, nevertheless, nonetheless, notwithstanding, in contrast, on the contrary, still, yet</td>
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<tr>
<td>first, second, third, ... next, then, finally</td>
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<td>after, afterward, at last, before, currently, during, earlier, immediately, later, meanwhile, now, recently, simultaneously, subsequently, then</td>
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<tr>
<td>for example, for instance, namely, specifically, to illustrate</td>
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<tr>
<td>even, indeed, in fact, of course, truly</td>
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<tr>
<td>above, adjacent, below, beyond, here, in front, in back, nearby, there</td>
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<tr>
<td>accordingly, consequently, hence, so, therefore, thus</td>
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<tr>
<td>additionally, again, also, and, as well, besides, equally important, further, furthermore, in addition, moreover, then</td>
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<tr>
<td>finally, in a word, in brief, briefly, in conclusion, in the end, in the final analysis, on the whole, thus, to conclude, to summarize, in sum, to sum up, in summary</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
### Diction in Formal Writing

Paragraph Construction

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Some Pronouns</th>
<th>Vague</th>
<th>Sentence Starters</th>
<th>Miscellaneous</th>
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<tbody>
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<tr>
<th>Strong Synonyms for Overused Verbs</th>
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<td>SAID</td>
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**Remember:**

You have developed an expansive vocabulary from the Sadlier-Oxford Vocabulary Workbooks. Help yourself learn and review these words by using this elevated diction in your writing! 😊
Concrete Detail & Commentary
Paragraph Construction

Concrete detail is _______________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________________________
What would be strong concrete detail to use if you were writing a paragraph about how Beowulf
asserts that mankind needs a superior being (specifically, the Christian God)? How would you
cite that concrete detail within the paragraph?
______________________________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________________________
Commentary is ________________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________________________

Rewrite each sentence to include strong word choice, appropriate transitional devices, concrete
detail, and commentary.

Beowulf was winning the battle with Grendel, but to make it seem like God was needed for
him to win, they added a line about how God helped him.
______________________________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________________________
“ I have come so far…That this one favor you shall not refuse me—That I, alone and with
the help of my men, May purge all evil from this hall.” (lines 162-166), shows Beowulf’s
courage because he tells King Hrothgar he will defeat Grendel.
______________________________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________________________
# Paragraph Construction Rubric Criteria

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Criteria</th>
<th>0</th>
<th>0.5</th>
<th>1</th>
<th>1.5</th>
<th>2</th>
<th>2.5</th>
<th>3</th>
<th>3.5</th>
<th>4</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Unity &amp; Coherence</strong>: The author consistently uses succinct topic sentences, seamless transitions, and concluding sentences that synthesize to focus the paragraphs.</td>
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<td><strong>Concrete Details</strong>: The author references specific evidence (quoted) at least twice per paragraph to enhance the central idea. All evidence is correctly cited and TIEed within an original sentence.</td>
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<td><strong>Commentary &amp; Analysis</strong>: Makes clear and convincing, defendable, inferential connections to the text with important and relevant evidence. Commentary illustrates a deep understanding of the piece of literature as a whole.</td>
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<td><strong>MLA Style Conventions</strong>: The document adheres to all MLA style conventions: correct heading information and formatting, title centered and correctly formatted, page numbers, Works Cited.</td>
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<td><strong>Vocabulary</strong>: All advanced vocabulary is consistently used correctly in the assignment (includes ≥ 2 vocabulary words).</td>
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**Total Points Earned: ______ / 20**

+ 

Δ 

*Important Note about the Rubric:*
Since we have not discussed a few components within the criterion yet, the segments crossed out will not be taken into account when grading this initial assignment. However, once we have addressed these components, the terminology above will be on the rubrics and you will be expected to meet the additional requirements.

**Scale Descriptors**
- 0 = Undocumented
- 1 = Beginning
- 2 = Intermediate
- 3 = Proficient/Competent
- 4 = Advanced Proficient/Mastered
Extra Practice Revising
Paragraph Construction

Directions: Rewrite the essay using the principles of strong paragraph writing (unity and coherence, concrete detail, and commentary). In this case, you will need to invent some of the information to complete the paragraph. 😊

I don’t like tests. Every time I take a test, I feel nervous. When I study for a test, I don’t know if I will be able to get a good grade. Often I worry about taking a test and can’t sleep. Sometimes I daydream or draw pictures in class. After the test is over, I worry about my grade. When my teacher gives the test back to me with a grade, I still can’t relax because I know I will have another test soon. Tests give me a lot of stress. That is why I don’t like tests.