

Coherence

Definition: Writing coherence refers to how well sentences and paragraphs are organized into an understandable whole. From the reader's point of view, the train of thought must be connected, easy to follow, and make sense.

Writing Hints

- Reorder words and/or sentences and repeat key words to make better connections.
- Use **Transitions** to connect together thoughts that do not directly flow together.

What You Need to Signal

Transitions

definition

- refers to, in other words, consists of, is equal to, means

example

- for example, for instance, such as, is like, including, to illustrate

addition

- also, another, in addition, furthermore, moreover

sequence

- first, second, later, next, before, for one, for another, previously, then, finally, following, since, now

analysis

- consider, this means, examine, look at

comparison

- similarly, in the same way, just like, likewise, in comparison

contrast

- in contrast, on the other hand, however, whereas, but, yet, nevertheless, instead, as opposed to, otherwise, on the contrary, regardless

cause-effect

- because, for, therefore, hence, as a result, consequently, due to, thus, so, this led to

conclusion

- in conclusion, to conclude, as one can see, as a result, in summary, for these reasons

Incoherent Paragraph Writing Model

Snow creates problems. Streets need shoveling. Snowplows cannot always access streets. Driveways are hard to clear. Many communities leave the expense of clearing snow up to the homeowner. Building up dangerously high on a roof, it can break roof framing. Snow may seem harmless. It can damage houses. Snow is always potentially hazardous. It can endanger people.

Coherent Revision Writing Model

Snow creates **two** problems for homeowners. **First**, it requires shoveling to keep driveways and streets clear, **but** snowplows cannot always access them. **Furthermore**, many communities leave the expense of clearing snow up to the homeowner; **thus**, some homeowners cannot afford the expense of hiring a snowplow. **Second**, snow may seem harmless, **yet** it is not. Snow can build up dangerously high on a roof **and** break roof framing. Always potentially hazardous, snow can damage houses **and** endanger those who live in them.

Coherence

Name _____

Directions: Revise each incoherent paragraph by reordering and including **Transitions**.

Incoherent Paragraph

Football has become America’s largest spectator sport. Each week millions of fans enjoy their favorite teams competing against other National Football League teams. They fill stadiums throughout the country. Many sit at home on couches and cheer the players on television. Following football on the Internet has become popular.

Coherent Revision

Incoherent Paragraph

Gardening has grown into a favorite American hobby. Successful gardeners all do certain things in common. The soil must be frequently mixed to allow roots to expand. Gardeners know how much to water and when to water. If natural or chemical pesticides are applied, pests and bugs will not damage flowers or vegetables. It takes time to garden well. Gardening requires knowledge.

Coherent Revision
