
Definition: Writing unity refers to how well sentences and paragraphs stay focused on the topic sentences and thesis statement (or claim). From the reader’s point of view, writing unity means that there are no irrelevant (off the point) details and that the tone of the writing remains consistent.

Writing Hints

All good writing is structured. The structure changes according to the domain of the writing, but when an author consistently follows a plan, the reader can clearly follow what the author intends to share or to prove. Avoid including details that take the reader away from this plan and lead to confusion.

Paragraph without Unity Writing Model

It has been said that history repeats itself. Who first said this quote is not important. Although circumstances may change, and they frequently do, and the cast of characters will differ, human response to crisis situations remains consistent over time. The lessons gained from past events should affect present decisions. People rarely change their behaviors based upon past experience. Sometimes they do, but not often do they change their actions. Indeed, it sometimes seems as if people are willing to challenge the influence of the past when they repeat mistakes or misjudgments. Why people would want to challenge the influence of the past remains unknown.

Paragraph with Unity Writing Model

It has been said that history repeats itself. Although circumstances may change, and the cast of characters will differ, human response to crisis situations remains consistent over time. The lessons gained from past events should affect present decisions, but people rarely change their behaviors based upon past experience. Indeed, it sometimes seems as if people are willing to challenge the influence of the past when they repeat mistakes or misjudgments.

Directions: Revise the following paragraph by eliminating irrelevant details. Maintain a consistent writing tone.

Paragraph without Unity

Snowboarding has quickly grown into a popular sport. Many skiers have traded in their skis for boards. It costs a lot for a one-day pass. At many resorts, snowboarders outnumber skiers. The National Snowboarding Institute, located in beautiful Aspen, Colorado, estimates that the number of snowboarders will double within the next decade.

Paragraph with Unity Revision

Unity

Name _____

Directions: Revise each **Paragraph without Unity** by eliminating irrelevant details. Maintain a consistent writing tone.

Paragraph without Unity

Elementary students should have at least one recess. Young children need physical activity and a time to socialize with friends. Recess is an important part of learning. Do not confuse recess with physical education. Often, adults think that school should only focus on reading, writing, and arithmetic. Recess teaches students how to share, compete fairly, and cooperate with each other. Climbing structures are children favorites.

Paragraph with Unity Revision

Paragraph without Unity

The television show, *Candid Camera*, surprises older and younger Americans by setting up humorous situations and filming with a hidden camera. Sometimes actors help set up the scene. In one scene, an actor asks elderly seniors to tell their favorite jokes. Many of these actors have gone on to star in movies. Other times, props provide the humor. A twenty-dollar bill, pasted to a telephone pole, caused hilarious reactions. Two hosts introduce each filmed scene.

Paragraph with Unity Revision
