



# CREATING COHERENCE



# What is coherence?

Coherence in writing is the logical bridge between words, sentences, and paragraphs. Coherent writing uses devices to connect ideas within each sentence and paragraph. Main ideas and meaning can be difficult for the reader to follow if the writing lacks coherence.



# What is coherence?

In a coherent text, there are logical links between the words, sentences, and paragraphs of the text. The term comes from the Latin verb *co-haerere*, which means 'to stick together'. Another way to describe coherence is to say that it has to do with good and smooth text flow. A writer must maximize understanding of a text by making it as clear and logical as possible.



# What is coherence?

Coherence makes a text easy to read and understand. Good writers know how to communicate well through writing. To begin with, they know the purpose of the text and they know who the intended audience is. They have a sense of what questions readers may have in mind. Good writers also know how to link sentences together in a logical and orderly way.



# Coherence Between Words

Between each word, coherence can be created by parallelism. **Parallel structure** means using similar grammatical constructions between words in sentences. Parallelism is particularly important for words in lists. If you're writing a list of things someone likes to do, then each activity in the list should take the same grammatical form.

# Coherence Between Words

For instance, if one verb in the list takes on the '-ing' gerund form, like 'running,' then the other verbs in the list should also be in the gerund form.

**For e.g.**

*Sarah likes to jump, running, and skate.*

Instead, the list should be parallel like this:

*Sarah likes jumping, running, and skating.*



# Coherence Between Sentences

Coherence can be created between sentences through repetition and transitional devices. Repetition of words across sentences helps to reiterate the same ideas between sentences. One way to use repetition to create coherence is to repeat the same word or phrase at the end of one sentence and the beginning of the next sentence to show how the ideas connect.

# Coherence Between Sentences

Here is an example of sentences that create coherence through repetition:

*The most important part of an essay is the thesis statement. The thesis statement introduces the argument of the essay. The thesis statement also helps to create a structure for the essay.*

In this example, the repetition of the phrase 'thesis statement' helps to unify the three sentences. It is a phrase that ends the first sentence and transitions into the next sentence by starting with that same phrase.



# Coherence Between Sentences

Another way to create coherence between sentences is through **transitional devices**. There are many types of transitional devices that show time and help ideas flow smoothly. Transitional words, such as 'first', 'later', and 'then', are a few examples of transitional devices that show time to help ideas flow more smoothly. Transitional devices are like signposts that tell the reader what is coming up ahead and where the discussion is going.



# Coherence Between Paragraphs

Transitional words can also be used between paragraphs. Words such as:

- Therefore
- However
- Yet
- Thus
- First
- Later
- Then



# Coherence Between Paragraphs

- Other ways to create coherence between paragraphs include having a consistent paragraph structure and point of view.
- The structure of a coherent paragraph includes a topic sentence, which focuses on the main idea. The topic sentence usually comes first in a paragraph. The topic sentence is followed by supporting sentences that develop the idea, and finally, a concluding sentence to tie it all together.



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Thank you...