

# *Essay notes*



# Coherence

- The smooth and effective transition from one idea or concept to another, from one sentence or paragraph to another. ie. It means arranging ideas in a logical order and showing the relationship between them.
- The unified flow from one through or idea to another.
- A coherent paragraph is easily understood as one sentence or idea builds on another.

# *Achieving Coherence*

## **1. *Logical progression***

- arranging ideas in proper order
- the step-by-step order of progression
- ex. Putting on your shoes

## **2. *Use of connectives***

- words or phrases which show relationships between sentences or paragraphs
- ex. Therefore, consequently, for this reason, as a result of, because...

## **3. *Repetition***

- the repetition of key words or phrases that makes the essay coherent

## **4. *Developing thoughts appropriately***

- the images are developed on the subject being discussed
- ex. Christmas wreath, decorations during the holidays

# Achieving Coherence (cont.)

## 5. ***Parallel Structure***

- the same grammatical structure is used to express ideas of the same value and importance
- sentences are easier to understand and will have a better balance and rhythm
- ex. All things are equal on television: neither good nor bad, neither pleasant nor painful, neither real or unreal.

## 6. ***Closing by return***

- closing an essay by returning to the ideas presented in the introduction

## 7. ***Pronoun reference***

- the use of pronouns to refer to subjects of an essay
- repetition of such pronouns as he, she, it, they, we, etc.

What is difference between  
Coherence and Unity?

# Figurative Language (PMSOA)

1. **Simile** – a comparison of 2 unlike things/objects using the words 'like' or 'as'.
2. **Metaphor** – a comparison of 2 unlike things/objects without using 'like' or 'as'.
3. **Personification** – giving human characteristics to objects, ideas or animals.
4. **Alliteration** – the repetition of consonant sounds or letters in successive words.
5. **Onomatopoeia** – the formation of words according to the sound it makes

# Why is Figurative Language effective?

1. It simplifies an idea
  - makes the abstract concrete, it makes the unfamiliar familiar and it creates vivid images.
2. It allows the writer to say much in a few words.
3. Imaginative pleasure
  - uses words that appeal to the five senses

# Writer's Purpose

(Why write what has been written?)

1. To share an experience.
2. To educate or to inform (explain and instruct).
3. To present a message or theme.
4. To present a point of view.
5. To entertain (tell a story).
6. To create the same feelings in the reader as felt by the writer when he/she witnessed/experienced the scene/object being described.
7. To appeal to the reader's senses and create a picture in their mind.



# What is a transition?

- A transition connects paragraphs by linking the topic of each new paragraph/sentence with the one preceding it.
  - It helps to maintain a progressive development of the subject.

# Parallel Structure

- **What is Parallel Structure?**

- The repetition of a grammatical pattern to express ideas of equal value.

Ex: “All things are equal on television,  
neither good nor bad, neither pleasant nor  
painful, neither real or unreal”.

# Why is parallel structure effective?

1. It helps to makes the passage coherent.
2. It allows the writer to give many ideas or details in a short space.
3. It allows for variation in sentence patterns – avoid boring sentences.
4. The repetition emphasizes the writer's main idea
5. It gives a pleasing effect for the eye and ear.
6. It gives equal weight to all ideas being expressed.

# What is Tone?

- The expression of the author's attitude towards his/her subject. It is revealed through the details presented. (corresponds to the tone of voice a speaker uses)
- Words used to describe tone:
  - Admiration
  - Humourous
  - Sympathetic
  - Satire
  - Seriousness
  - Nostalgic
  - Happiness
  - Sadness
  - Peaceful
  - Joyful
  - Ironic
  - Arrogance/pride
  - Apologetic
  - Belonging
  - Bitterness
  - Cold
  - Anger
  - Apathetic
  - Empathetic
  - Sarcastic

# What is Audience?

- The audience is the kind of people for whom an author writes.
  - General audience – something written for most people to read/hear/view and understand.
  - Specific audience – something written for a particular group of people. The message and language will be much easier for this specific group to understand. Ex: teens, scientists, lawyers, parents.

# Why use Long Sentences?

1. To provide a detailed explanation of a point of view.
2. To develop suspense.
3. To give examples and details.
4. To avoid choppy sentences.

# Why use short sentences?

1. Catch the reader's attention.
2. For a fast pace.
3. As a transitional device.
4. To express strong feelings.
5. To make a forceful point.
6. To begin or end a paragraph.

# Why is a sentence placed last?

- To achieve coherence.
- Serve as a conclusion.
- To achieve a lasting impression in the reader's mind.
- To summarize the main idea/message that a writer is attempting to get across.



# Characteristics of Description

1. It presents a clear and vivid picture
2. It uses imagery (vivid adjectives)
3. It uses figures of speech (aka - figurative language or PMSOA)
4. Uses language that appeals to the senses.
5. One dominant impression is conveyed by the writer ie. Peace, beauty etc
6. Follows a spacial organization
7. Established a physical point of view
8. Tries to recreate the feelings of the writer

# Characteristic of Narration

1. After reading a piece of writing one can define a theme for the piece of writing.
2. Conflict must be present in narration
3. Narration contains plot and scenes
4. Character change and development must occur.
5. The 5W's and How are easily defined
6. There is a logical and coherent order (often chronological order)
7. Has a beginning, middle and end – If the story starts in the middle or end, it's a flashback.

# Characteristics of Exposition

1. Tries to explain by answering the question how & why.
2. Uses logic to develop ideas and facts to support those ideas.
3. Appeals to reason.
4. Makes use of one or more of the expository methods of development. (examples and illustrations; cause and effect; process analysis; Comparison and contrast; Classification and division, analogy, definition, reasons)