

## Writing Paragraphs → Unity and Coherence

Level: High School

*Part of what makes a paragraph good is **unity**: all sentences relate to the topic being discussed, without adding tangents or off-topic information. The paragraph should also be **coherent**: that is, the ideas flow and connect to each other logically. Good connecting words and parallel sentence structures help with this, and each new sentence should relate in some way to what came before, even as it introduces new information or a new perspective. **Unity** and **Coherence** make the paragraph clear and easy for the reader to follow.*

**Read the topic sentence and the sentences that follow it. Number the sentences in the best logical order. Hint: take note of connecting words or words showing a time frame.**

**Topic Sentence:** The Statue of Liberty has its origins in French support of the American Revolution, but its significance endures to this day.

- \_\_\_\_\_ People have always been able to climb up inside it, except for renovation periods in the 1930s and 1980s.
- \_\_\_\_\_ France had provided aid to the Americans in 1776 and through the rest of the revolution.
- \_\_\_\_\_ But the goal is always to allow safe public access, so the wonderful statue donated by France will always remind people of the importance of liberty.
- \_\_\_\_\_ It closed again for several months from 2011 to 2012, for further renovation.
- \_\_\_\_\_ So a French sculptor designed the towering statue, and in 1886, it was dedicated in New York.

**Topic Sentence:** Learning a second language confers both expected and unexpected benefits.

- \_\_\_\_\_ This may be even more important than the economic reason, because knowing how other cultures think helps the learner reflect on his or her own world view.
- \_\_\_\_\_ So learning a second language doesn't just help with business, but may actually help promote peace and understanding in the world.
- \_\_\_\_\_ The first reason people give for learning other languages is that this education helps them work in the global economy.
- \_\_\_\_\_ But learning another language also opens up a learner to the way other cultures view the world.

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Read each topic sentence below, and then the sentence that follows it. Write “Yes” if that sentence would contribute to the unity of a paragraph about that topic, or “No” if it would not.

**Topic sentence:** The great thing about pizza is that there are so many different styles to enjoy.

\_\_\_\_\_ No one is quite sure whether Ike Sewell or Rudy Malnati invented Chicago deep dish pizza.

**Topic sentence:** While people concentrate so much on their carbon footprint in the atmosphere, they may forget other ways they could be affecting the environment.

\_\_\_\_\_ Lavish and unnecessary use of water could soon contribute to a growing scarcity of clean, drinkable water.

**Topic sentence:** Japanese anime is quite a different form of animation than its American counterparts.

\_\_\_\_\_ Japanese calligraphy has a long history of development through the centuries.

**Topic sentence:** Constant upgrades and changes to service are now making cell phone ownership more and more expensive.

\_\_\_\_\_ Kids acquiring all these expensive devices at younger ages is making it hard for teachers to keep students concentrating in the classroom.

**Topic sentence:** After their excellent showing in the FIFA World Cup tournament in 2010, the American national soccer team stands poised to advance even farther in 2014.

\_\_\_\_\_ When the team signed Jurgen Klinsmann in 2011, the organization gained a famous coach with considerable experience at the World Cup level.

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