

Cohesion

Cohesion: the flow within a paragraph; the sentence-to-sentence logic of a paragraph that helps the reader understand the relationships between your ideas

Why is cohesion important?

Cohesive writing flows logically from one point to the next so that the reader easily transitions throughout the piece and understands how your thoughts are related to each other.

Techniques for creating cohesion:

Begin with familiar; end with new

- Start each sentence or paragraph with information that you've already touched on or ideas the reader already knows. Use your sentence openings to refer back to old information. Do not begin with new information or technical knowledge.
- Include your new information, or information that the reader could not have anticipated, in the second half of the sentence.
- Counterintuitive: The impulse is to put new information at the beginning of a sentence, in order to highlight it, but highlighting is ineffective if the reader doesn't know how or why new information is important. Besides, we best remember what we read last.

Transitions

- Transitional words and expressions (ex. furthermore, in conclusion, however, etc.) show the logical relationships between two sentences.

Repetition

- Repeating key terms, concepts, and phrases and using synonyms will help the reader understand your development of your topic and help keep you focused on what you're writing about.

Parallel Sentence Patterns

- Using the same sentence structure in two sentences will help your reader understand how the information in those sentences is supposed to be compared

Practice

Read through the following introductory paragraph. Then answer the questions below about cohesion.

It does not take long for the issue of camaraderie to appear within Erich Remarque's novel *All Quiet on the Western Front*. The book's first word, the pronoun "We", arguably points to Paul's small group of friends, and not his company within the

