



Course: English composition 1

Couse code: ENGL 101

Topic: The Paragraph

Skill: Components and characteristics of a composition

A good composition is characterized by qualities which are marks of all effective writings. It adheres to the principle of unity in the development of a single idea or emotional effect; it achieves coherence in the arrangement of its sentences and paragraphs; and it secures appropriate emphasis in the disposition of its ideas. It also possesses a certain degree of originality and a characteristic style.

Unity:

The word theme means a single, definite subject. Unity in the whole theme demands that all its sentences and paragraphs must contribute to the development of one idea or one effect, and must fit into the organic pattern of the whole. It is possible that every paragraph in a composition is unified in itself, and yet the whole theme lacks unity. Every part of the theme should serve the central purpose of the whole. This calls for the elimination of irrelevant materials which have no connection with the main theme.

Coherence:

A whole composition has coherence when there is an unbroken chain of relationships among the paragraphs and these relationships are clear to the reader. The relationship among paragraphs is organic as they are based on a logical coherence in the subject matter. A composition dealing with the essentials of effective speech may have the first paragraphs discuss integrity; the second, knowledge; the third, self-confidence; and the fourth, skill. The logical connection between the paragraphs is evident as they deal with the attributes of a good speaker. This is what we call organic relationship, one which reflects an essential coherence among the ideas the composition intends to communicate.

Sin coherencia y unidad, el párrafo jamás tendrá sentido hacia el lector, al escribir, mantén un párrafo sobre el mismo tema, luego utiliza otro párrafo para entrar a otro tema, sería incorrecto y confuso el mencionar otro tema en el mismo párrafo.

The best way to achieve coherence is to order your thoughts properly. You can arrange your ideas in the chronological order, logical order, or point-of-view order. You can clarify related thoughts and achieve coherence by repeating important words and phrases, using parallel structures and transitional devices. Although they are useful in the establishing order in the composition, you should use them only when they are essential to the structure and situation. For instance, a composition overloaded with transitional elements becomes ineffective; the style, heavy; and the order, too obvious

KNOWN

NEW

OLD

Coastal erosion is a problem throughout the United States, and it occurs on the east coast and the west coast. Coastal erosion will directly influence the environment and society in the coastal area. Cities and villages that are located in the coastal areas will experience changes in the shape of the shoreline. When shorelines have changes shapes, fishing in tide pools and from boats will also need to become different. So, the local people who make their living by fishing will also have to adjust their traditional ways of doing their jobs every day.

As seen in the image, did you notice where “Known” is the initial thought, or the basis of the paragraph, then the “New” adds information to the reader, and finally, “old” makes reference to the data already discussed within the paragraph, connected with pronouns, always referring to the topic at hand.

Web Resources:

Video:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xx_UMuNp9Ns

References:

<http://mycreativepanda.com/hermosa/?p=770>