CHAPTER 2: UNITY AND COHERENCE

Fundamentals of English Writing
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Gold

Gold, a precious metal, is prized for two important characteristics. First of all, gold has a lustrous beauty that is resistant to corrosion. Therefore, it is suitable for jewelry, coins, and ornamental purposes. Gold never needs to be polished and will remain beautiful forever. For example, a Macedonian coin remains as untarnished today as the day it was made 25 centuries ago. Another important characteristic of gold is its usefulness to industry and science. For many years, they have been used in hundreds of industrial applications, such as photography and dentistry. The most recent use of gold is in astronauts’ suits. Astronauts wear gold-plated heat shields for protection when they go outside spaceships in space. Silver is also very valuable. In conclusion, gold is treasured not only for its beauty but also for its utility.
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Unity means that a paragraph discusses only one main idea.

The main idea is stated in the topic sentence, and every supporting sentence must directly explain or prove the main idea.
“Every writer has had to commit editorial murder of a favorite image, word, phrase, or sentence that simply didn’t fit.”
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Elements that make for great paragraphs:

- **Unity**
- **Coherence**
  - Repeating key nouns
  - Using consistent pronouns
  - Using transition signals
  - Arranging ideas in logical order
Transition signals

- Transition signals ‘signal’ relationships between sentences, or between paragraphs.
- They can be a single word (therefore) or a phrase (on the contrary)
- Different kinds of transition signals:
  A. Subordinators
  B. Coordinators
  C. Prepositions
How do you signal to a reader:

- An example: *for example*
- A similar idea: *similarly*
- An opposite idea: *in contrast*
- A result: *therefore*
- A conclusion: *in conclusion*
Coordinators combine two or more independent clauses that have equal importance.

The report proves that parents have a great influence upon children’s language development and the influences are most of the time positive.

Subordinators link a main clause and a dependent or subordinate clause.

He plans to find a job in the medical field as soon as he finishes his practicum.
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