

Press **Esc** to exit full screen

Texture of a text: Coherence & Structure

Guess the topic?

A newspaper is better than a magazine.

A seashore is a better place than the street.

At first it is better to run than to walk.

You may have to try several times.

It takes some skill but it's easy to learn.

Even young children can enjoy it.

Once successful, complications are minimal.

Birds seldom get too close.

Rain, however, soaks in very fast.

Too many people doing the same thing can also cause problems.

One needs lots of room.

If there are no complications, it can be very peaceful.

Flying a kite

A newspaper is better than a magazine.

A seashore is a better place than the street.

At first it is better to run than to walk.

You may have to try several times.

It takes some skill but it's easy to learn.

Even young children can enjoy it.

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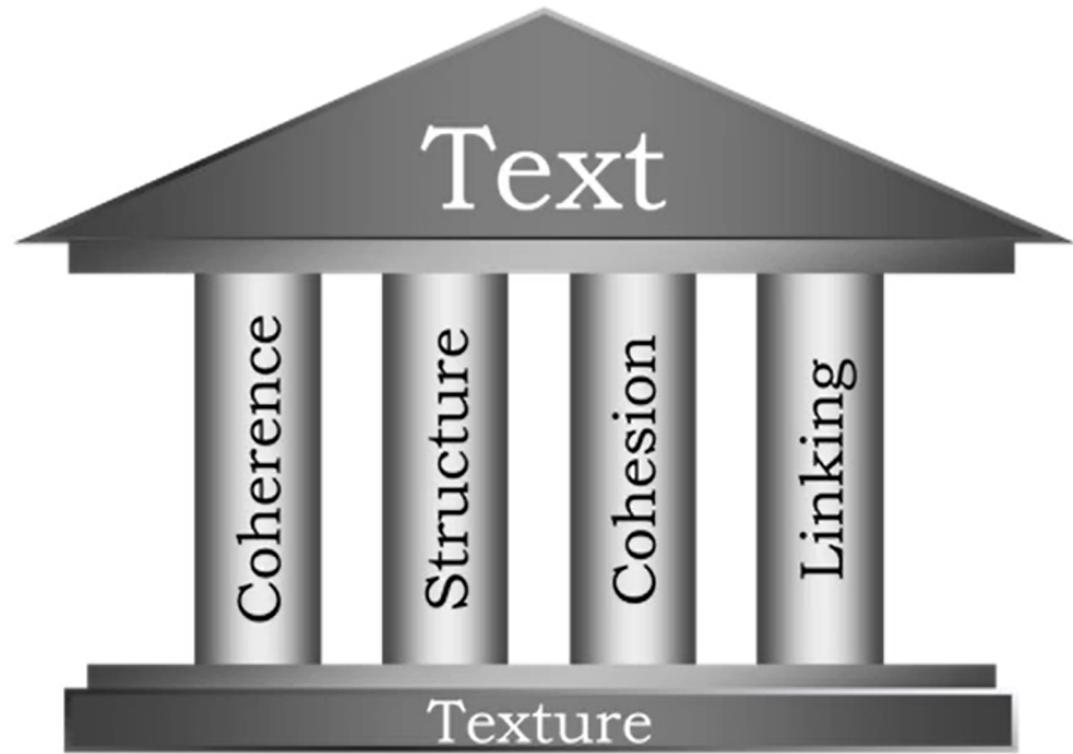
If there are no complications, it can be very peaceful.



Texture of a text

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- Difference between a group and a team?
 - May not share a common goal VS. Share a common goal.
 - Members are independent VS. Members are interdependent.
- What holds a team together?
 - Common goal, leader, communication, coordination, mutual understanding etc.
- What is a text?
 - A group words with a communicative function, which is achieved by employing certain features of composition and language expressions.
- What holds a text together?
 - Coherence
 - Structure
 - Cohesion
 - Links across ideas



Coherence

"A paragraph is coherent when its sentences are **logically and clearly related to one another** and their **total effect is the clear development** of the paragraph topic".

Warriner (1982)

A text is coherent when its paragraphs are logically and clearly related to one another and their total effect is the clear development of the thesis or argument.

Characteristics of a coherent text (essay)

1. Structure: Introduction including thesis statement, supporting paragraphs (with details, examples and explanations) and conclusion.
2. Germane ideas: stay on topic & every sentence is relevant.
3. Logical organisation: time, space, importance, general to specific, argument and counter argument, and enumeration (similarities, differences, problems, advantages, benefits etc.).

Assess these sentences on the criteria

The northern United States and Canada are places where herons live and breed. Spending the winter here has its advantages. Great Blue Herons live and breed in most of the northern United States. It's an advantage for herons to avoid the dangers of migration. Herons head south when the cold weather arrives. The earliest herons to arrive on the breeding grounds have an advantage.

Assess these sentences on the criteria

The northern United States and Canada are places where herons live and breed. Spending the winter here has its advantages. Great Blue Herons live and breed in most of the northern United States. It's an advantage for herons to avoid the dangers of migration. Herons head south when the cold weather arrives. The earliest herons to arrive on the breeding grounds have an advantage.

1. Structure?

2. Most of the sentences talk about herons! But main idea?

3. Logical connections between sentences?

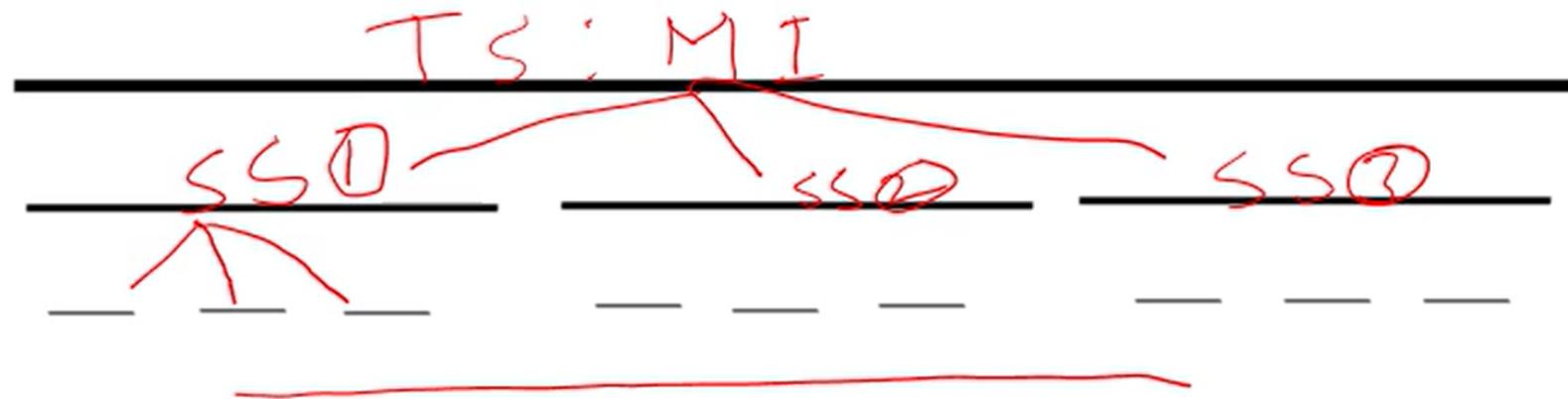
Organise

1. To begin with, many cats are affectionate.
2. Another reason is that cats are generally quite playful.
3. People enjoy the companionship of cats for several reasons.
4. When appropriately trained, cats will even fetch!
5. Using rewards and punishments, just like with a dog, people can train a cat to avoid unwanted behavior or perform tricks.
6. They will snuggle up and ask to be petted or scratched under the chin.
7. They love to chase balls and feathers or just about anything dangling from a string.
8. In conclusion, people like the companionship of cats because they are affectionate, playful and trainable.
9. They also enjoy playing when their owners are participating in the game.
10. Last, cats can be trained.

3, 1, 6, 2, 7, 9, 10, 5, 4, 8

³People enjoy the companionship of cats for several reasons. ¹To begin with, many cats are affectionate. ⁶They will snuggle up and ask to be petted or scratched under the chin. ²Another reason is that cats are generally quite playful. ⁷They love to chase balls and feathers or just about anything dangling from a string. ⁹They also enjoy playing when their owners are participating in the game. ¹⁰Last, cats can be trained. ⁵Using rewards and punishments, just like with a dog, people can train a cat to avoid unwanted behavior or perform tricks. ⁴When appropriately trained, cats will even fetch!
⁸In conclusion, people like the companionship of cats because they are affectionate, playful and trainable.

Organisation of a paragraph

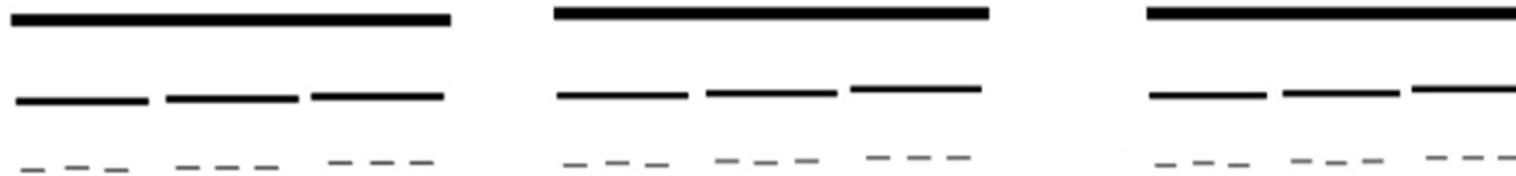


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Organisation of an essay

Introduction



Conclusion

Essay structure

1. Introductory paragraph
 - i. a hook: reader's attention
 - ii. building sentences: provide background and context, build
 - iii. a thesis statement: writer's main idea or thesis or argument
2. Body paragraphs
 - i. Topic sentence
 - ii. Supporting sentences
 - iii. Transition or finishing sentence
3. Concluding paragraph
 - i. Restated thesis
 - ii. Summary of main ideas
 - iii. Final thought

Hook

1. Quote

Hillary Clinton once said that “There cannot be true democracy unless women's voices are heard.” ...

2. Rhetorical question

What would life be without music? ...

3. Statistic or fact

Snakebite envenoming is a neglected tropical disease estimated to be responsible for >100,000 deaths worldwide each year.

Cell (2020) <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.cell.2019.11.038>

Lung cancer kills more people globally than any other cancer, and 80–90% of those deaths are attributable to tobacco exposure.

Nature (2020) <https://doi.org/10.1038/s41586-020-1961-1>

4. Anecdote: A short story or account about a person or an event.

Hook for essay's sake not for hook's sake.

Model Essay

Explain how an alternate form of energy is being used successfully in the world today.

Request: Read the essay carefully before you listen to the analysis of the essay.

Paragraph 1: Introduction

“I’d put my money on the sun and solar energy. What a source of power! I hope we don’t have to wait until oil and coal run out before we tackle that.” With this statement, Thomas Edison, the inventor of the light bulb, recognized the capacity of the sun as a virtually limitless source of energy in 1931. However, although a time when oil and coal have been completely used up could be getting closer, the full potential of solar power is yet to be harnessed by mankind. Televisions, refrigerators, air conditioners, and all the other appliances common in the developed world require vast amounts of electricity, meaning that the world’s most powerful countries still very much depend on fossil fuels. In Sub-Saharan Africa, Southeast Asia, and parts of South America, however, solar power is already changing the lives of people who have until now lived without a steady electricity supply. As low-cost solar panels become available, they are being used most effectively in some of the world’s poorest countries, which also happen to be some of the sunniest. Solar power is improving people’s lives in developing countries by providing efficient light safely, linking them to the global mobile community and increasing their independence.

Paragraph 2: Body Paragraph 1

¹Low-cost, solar-powered lamps provide a **dependable** and **safe** source of light to people in rural communities who often have no connection to a national electricity grid. ²**People either had to do without electricity, or were limited to using unreliable, low-intensity light from candles or kerosene lamps at night.** ³**Now**, a new solar-powered lamp, when charged for eight hours in the bright sun, can provide up to a hundred hours of continuous, stable light (Ref1). ⁴**As a result**, families are now able to extend and enrich their days by pursuing hobbies or crafts, and socializing longer into the evening with a brighter, constant light. ⁵**Furthermore**, solar power is clean and safe. ⁶**An Energy Resource Group article reports**, “Health problems caused by toxic fumes from kerosene lamps are responsible for an estimated two million deaths annually” (Ref2). ⁷**In addition**, both candles and kerosene are a fire hazard, especially in homes that tend to be predominantly made of wood. ⁸**Solar-powered lighting removes these dangers from people’s homes because they emit no fumes and have no open flame**, so people benefit from cleaner air and a reduced worry of fire. ⁹**Solar power, therefore, has not only changed people’s lives, it has also made their lives safer.**

Paragraph 3: Body Paragraph 2

As well as providing reliable and safe light, the power of these solar panels is also being used to help people in developing countries connect to global communication networks. The same solar panel that provides light at night can be used to charge and recharge a cellular phone, which brings a number of significant benefits. For example, New York Times writer Sharon LaFraniere found that in rural, often remote parts of Sub-Saharan Africa, cell phones allow people to communicate easily and immediately with neighboring villages, as well as provide access to banking networks and global information sources (Ref3). The same article also reported that in a study of rural communities in developing countries, shop owners, traders, farmers, and fishermen all claimed that access to a cell phone had a positive impact on their profits (Ref3). As a result, their communities benefited economically. By providing a link to the world beyond the old limits of their immediate community, solar power is giving people in developing nations the means to improve their livelihoods.

Paragraph 4: Body Paragraph 3

Last, as a consequence of the technological benefits brought by solar power, people in developing countries are able to live their lives with greater autonomy. Solar power allows a poor family to make considerable financial savings. A BBC news story explains that a solar-powered lamp is relatively expensive for most families in developing countries, but because it costs nothing to operate after the purchase, it is much cheaper than alternatives, like kerosene (Ref1). With their savings, more families can invest money into developing or expanding their farms or small businesses, which leads to greater financial stability and independence. Furthermore, solar power provides an environment in which people can educate themselves. In the journal Africa Renewal –United Nations Department of Public Information, it was concluded that literacy rates and the number of people studying for trade certificates are increasing faster in towns and villages where solar-powered lamps are accessible (Ref4). Therefore, by allowing both children and adults to study at home in the evenings, solar power provides an opportunity for many people in the poorest parts of the world to escape a life of dependency through better education.

Paragraph 5: Conclusion

¹In summary, solar power is making a significant difference to the lives of people in the developing world. ²By providing safe, clean, and efficient light, it is removing dangers from people's homes while brightening their evenings. ³In addition, the ability to charge a cell phone allows people to communicate with the world and grow their businesses. ⁴The increased time and money available give people the means to take control of their lives and build for the future. ⁵The evidence certainly shows that in parts of the world where there is abundant sunlight, harnessing solar energy can be a key to improving the lives of many people.