‘Understanding Coherence’ Exercise:

1) The following is one paragraph comprised of seven sentences, but it has been broken up in to individual sentences. **Order the sentences (1-7**) in a way that you think best develops the paragraph logically.

( ) Slaves even used songs like “Steal Away to Jesus (at midnight)” to announce to other slaves the time and place of secret, forbidden meetings.

( ) For example, according to Frederick Douglass, the song “O Canaan, Sweet Canaan” spoke of slaves’ longing for heaven, but it also expressed their desire to escape to the North.

( ) On one level, spirituals referenced heaven, Jesus, and the soul; but on another level, the songs spoke about slave resistance.

( ) What whites heard as merely spiritual songs, slaves discerned as detailed messages. The hidden meanings in spirituals allowed slaves to sing what they could not say.

( ) Careful listeners heard this second meaning in the following lyrics: “I don’t expect to stay / Much longer here. / Run to Jesus, shun the danger. / I don’t expect to stay.”

( ) Slave spirituals often had hidden double meanings.

( ) When slaves sang this song, they could have been speaking of their departure from this life and their arrival in heaven; however, they also could have been describing their plans to leave the South and run, not to Jesus, but to the North.

Now, check your answers below

Here is the paragraph as it was intended:

Slave spirituals often had hidden double meanings. On one level, spirituals referenced heaven, Jesus, and the soul; but on another level, the songs spoke about slave resistance. For example, according to Frederick Douglass, the song “O Canaan, Sweet Canaan” spoke of slaves’ longing for heaven, but it also expressed their desire to escape to the North. Careful listeners heard this second meaning in the following lyrics: “I don’t expect to stay / Much longer here. / Run to Jesus, shun the danger. / I don’t expect to stay.” When slaves sang this song, they could have been speaking of their departure from this life and their arrival in heaven; however, they also could have been describing their plans to leave the South and run, not to Jesus, but to the North. Slaves even used songs like “Steal Away to Jesus (at midnight)” to announce to other slaves the time and place of secret, forbidden meetings. What whites heard as merely spiritual songs, slaves discerned as detailed messages. The hidden meanings in spirituals allowed slaves to sing what they could not say.

2) Analyze the paragraph as it was written and describe how **coherence** is achieved. i) how it develops (logical bridges) and ii) how the author uses language (or verbal bridges) to connect the ideas.

\*\*\*You do **not** need to submit this task