

Unified Sentences & Paragraphs

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❑ What is a Unified Sentence / Paragraph ?

“A sentence or paragraph having the **quality of oneness** that results when all the words and sentences contribute to a single main idea.”



- It must have a single focus and it must contain no irrelevant facts.
- Every sentence must contribute to the paragraph by explaining, exemplifying, or expanding the topic sentence.



Rules of Thumb for Writing Unified Paragraphs

- ✓ Paragraphs should **focus on one idea** and state that idea in a topic sentence.
- ✓ Place **your topic sentence effectively** within your paragraph.
- ✓ **Explain the relationship** between your evidence and your idea so that it is clear to readers.
- ✓ Be sure your **paragraphs are related**, that they fit together and clarify your essay's idea

❑ Do not confuse **UNITY** and **COHERENCE**:

unity

in a paragraph
means that the entire
paragraph should
focus on one idea

Coherence

involves the clear
movement of thought
from sentence to
sentence or paragraph
to paragraph



□ Example of a unified paragraph

- Example 1:

(1) generally, language has three functions according to its purpose: informative, expressive and directive. (2) Speaking with the purpose of communicating factual information is called the informative function. (3) Speaking in order to express feelings and attitudes of the listener is called the expressive to emotive function. (4) And finally, speaking in order to make other people act is called the directive function.



❑ Example of a non-unified Paragraph

Example 2 :

(1) My father is very strict with his children, especially me. (2) He will not let me out of the house unless I have done my homework. (3) Frankly speaking, I do not care whether I go to school or not. (4) School is such a waste of time. (5) My mother does not agree with my father. (6) They quarrel a lot. (7) Sometimes I wish they would get a divorce, but then whom would I live with?



□ Acknowledgements & References:

- ✓ <http://grammar.about.com/od/tz/g/unityterm.htm>
(Maxine Hairston, *Successful Writing*. Norton, 1992)
- ✓ (Lee Brandon and Kelly Brandon, *Paragraphs and Essays With Integrated Readings*, 12th ed. Wadsworth, 2012)
- ✓ (Mark Connelly, *Get Writing: Paragraphs and Essays*. Thomson Wadsworth, 2009)
- ✓ *Google images*
- ✓ <http://writeenglish.net/paragraphunity1-1.php>

