

# The Paragraph

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*The Paragraph*

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# Theme 2 : Unity and Coherence in a Paragraph

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## 1. Unity



### Définition

A unified paragraph is a paragraph in which only one single idea is being tackled all over (*Oshima & Hogue, 2007*). It happens when the totality of sentences of the paragraph are relevant to the topic under discussion (*Zemach & Rumisek, 2006*). The idea exists in the topic sentence, and then, continues in the supporting sentences. If an off-topic sentence is mentioned, it would be the reason that breaks the paragraph's unity (*Savage & Shafiei, 2007*).



### Exemple

Topic sentence: My friend Amelia is a nice person.

Supporting sentences:

- She always listens to your problems.
- She is available whenever you need her.
- She compliments people all the time.

As it can be noticed, all the sentences demonstrate how Amelia is a nice person, and are, thus, unified. A sentence about the way she looks or about her job will not support the unity of the paragraph unless it is related to her kindness.

## 2. Coherence



### Définition

A coherent paragraph is a paragraph whose sentences are logically linked to one another with supporting details. The goal is to show that the upcoming sentence is a continuation of the preceding one. Its sole purpose is to reach the clarity of ideas that would ease the readers' comprehension of the text (*Savage & Shafiei, 2007*).



### Méthode

To make a paragraph coherent and link between ideas and sentences, writers:

- Repeat key words (using the same word again will emphasize the mentioned idea).
- Use synonyms
- Use pronouns (it, they, this, that, these, those)
- Use *transition* words and phrases

### Patterns of Organisation

There are three ways in which ideas in a paragraph are arranged. These ways are called patterns of organization which are:

1. time order
2. space order
3. order of importance.

<b>Pattern of Organization</b>	<b>Characteristics</b>
Time order	It implies the chronological sequence of events following a natural order so as to direct the reader from one point to the next.
Space order	It comprises the physical location of the described element in space in order to move from one area to another.
Order of importance	It embodies a succession of events that are recorded in the order in which they occurred.