

Paper Cohesion

Cohesion

Cohesion in writing refers to the content of your writing coming together as one and the organization, flow, focus, coherence, and unity of your writing. To create a cohesive paper and keep your reader's interest, each of your ideas should flow from one idea to the next. As a writer, your goal should be to connect your ideas and relate them back to your controlling idea, also known as your thesis statement.

How to Achieve Cohesion in Your Paper

1. Identify a focal point
2. Consider the arrangement of your paper
3. Utilize cohesive ties (devices used to connect ideas in a text)

Cohesive ties include:

- Deictic expressions
- Transitions
- Repetition
- Parallelism
- Sentence structure

Cohesive Ties Example (Transitions)

Many people are aware of the importance of their mental health. **However**, they often struggle to recognize symptoms of mental illness and are unsure where to find resources that will help them.

Three Levels of Cohesion

After you have outlined your paper based on your pattern of arrangement, it is important to ensure your paper is cohesive and structured.

1 . Paragraph-Level Cohesion

Make sure that you have a good topic sentence, or controlling idea, for each paragraph. Each new paragraph is the start of a new idea, so you want to make sure that the rest of each paragraph relates to its topic sentence.

2 . Section-Level Cohesion

The controlling or main idea for a section is known as a section thesis. Section-level cohesion is making sure that each paragraph in your section follows your section thesis.

3 . Paper-Level Cohesion

Paper-level cohesion is making sure that your paper (all your sections and all the paragraphs within those sections) follows your paper's thesis, which is the controlling idea for your paper.

Paper Cohesion

Creating Cohesion Through Argument

Arrangement by Time <ul style="list-style-type: none">■ Chronological order■ Reverse chronological order	Arrangement by Specificity <ul style="list-style-type: none">■ Deductive order (main idea first and specifics after)■ Inductive order (specifics first and main idea after)	Arrangement by Importance <ul style="list-style-type: none">■ Order points from most important to least (or vice-versa)
Arrangement by Classification <ul style="list-style-type: none">■ Topics determine order■ Principles determine order	Arrangement by Space <ul style="list-style-type: none">■ Organized based on distance or relation to a given subject	Arrangement by Familiarity <ul style="list-style-type: none">■ Start with what is familiar to audience and then move to unfamiliar■ Start with unfamiliar and move to familiar

Cohesion Through Arrangement Examples

Arrangement by Time

You could start with the history of your topic and then discuss the current state of your topic and what has changed. This could also be written in reverse.

Arrangement by Specificity

The inductive approach consists of starting with support and examples and ending with your main idea. For example, if you are writing a paper on recycling, you could start your paper by providing evidence of the benefits of recycling and end it with your thesis.

Arrangement by Importance

You may want to organize your writing from most to least important if your audience is resistant to your ideas. For example, if your topic is about why global warming is an environmental issue that requires sustainable solutions, you would start with the most important reason why global warming requires sustainable solutions (such as carbon emissions) and end with the least important or least impactful reason (such as Americans not recycling).

Arrangement by Classification

For example, if you wanted to inform your audience about what to recycle, you could organize your paper by different categories of recyclable items.

Arrangement by Space

If you are writing about different things to do in Lancaster, you could arrange your paper geographically so that the order of the places you discuss reflects their nearness to each other in real life.

Arrangement by Familiarity

An example for organizing from familiar to unfamiliar would be if you are arguing that community members should have a bigger role in decision-making, you could start by discussing the time-consuming confrontations that result when community members don't get a say (which government officials are probably familiar with) and end with the benefits of community member participation (which government officials may not be familiar with).

References

Farkas, Kerrie R. H. *The Transportable Writing Tool: A Guide for Writing and Revising*. 2nd ed. Kendall Hunt Publishing Company, 2020.