

Handout Ten

SUPPORTING DETAILS: COHERENCE, UNITY, FACTS, STATISTICS AND QUOTATIONS

UNITY

Practice 1: Unity

A. The three paragraphs that follow all discuss the same topic. Only one of them shows unity. First read the paragraphs. Then answer these questions.

1. Which paragraph has unity?
2. Which paragraph does not have unity because it discusses two different topics?
3. Which paragraph does not have unity because it has sentences that are not related to the main topic?

Paragraph 1

Effects of Color

Colors create biological reactions in our bodies. These reactions, in turn, can change our behavior. In one study, prisoners were put in a pink room, and they underwent a drastic and measurable decrease in muscle strength and hostility within 2.7 seconds. In another study, athletes needing short bursts of energy were exposed to red light. Their muscle strength increased by 13.5 percent, and electrical activity in their arm muscles increased by 5.8 percent. Athletes needing more endurance for longer performances responded best when exposed to blue light. Other studies have shown that the color green is calming. Green was a sacred color to the Egyptians, representing the hope and joy of spring. It is also a sacred color to Moslems. Many mosques and religious temples throughout the world use green (the color of renewal and growth) and blue (the color of heaven) to balance heavenly peace with spiritual growth. To sum up, color influences us in many ways (Daniels 10).'

Paragraph 2

Effects of Color

Colors create biological reactions in our bodies. These reactions, in turn, can change our behavior. In one study, prisoners were put in a pink room, and they underwent a drastic and measurable decrease in muscle strength and hostility within 2.7 seconds. In another study, athletes needing short bursts of energy were exposed to red light. Their muscle strength increased by 13.5 percent, and electrical activity in their arm muscles increased by 5.8 percent. Athletes needing more endurance for longer performances responded best when exposed to blue light. Other studies have shown that the color green is calming. After London's Blackfriars Bridge was painted green, the number of suicides decreased by 34 percent. These and other studies clearly demonstrate that color affects not only our moods but our behavior as well (Daniels 10).

Paragraph 3

Effects of Color

Colors create biological reactions in our bodies. These reactions, in turn, can change our behavior. In one study, athletes needing short bursts of energy

were exposed to red light. Their muscle strength increased by 13.5 percent, and electrical activity in their arm muscles increased by 5.8 percent. Athletes needing more endurance for longer performances responded best when exposed to blue light. Blue is not a good color for dinnerware, however. Food looks less appetizing when it is served on blue plates, perhaps because very few foods in nature are of that color. Other studies have shown that the color green is calming. After London's Blackfriars Bridge was painted green, the number of suicides from it decreased by 34 percent. It is clear that color affects not just our moods, but our behavior as well (Daniels 10).

B. Both of the following paragraphs break the rule of unity because they contain one or more sentences that are off the topic.

Step 1 Locate and underline the topic sentence of each paragraph.

Step 2 Cross out the sentence or sentences that are off the topic.

Paragraph 1

Adventure travel is the hot trend in the tourism industry. Ordinary people are no longer content to spend their two weeks away from the office resting on a sunny beach in Florida. More and more often, they are choosing to spend their vacations rafting down wild rivers, hiking through steamy rain forests, climbing the world's highest mountains, or crossing slippery glaciers¹. People of all ages are choosing educational study tours for their vacations.

Paragraph 2

Daredevil² sports are also becoming popular. Young people especially are increasingly willing to risk life and limb³ while mountain biking, backcountry snowboarding, or high-speed skateboarding. Soccer is also popular in the United States now, although football is still more popular. One of the riskiest new sports is skysurfing, in which people jump out of airplanes with boards attached to their feet. Skysurfing rivals⁴ skydiving and bungee jumping for the amount of thrills and risk.

C. Both of the following paragraphs not only have sentences that are off the topic but also discuss two or more topics.

Step 1 Decide where each paragraph should be divided into two paragraphs.

Underline the topic sentence of each.

Step 2 Find sentence(s) that are off the topic and cross them out.

Paragraph 1

Because the Internet makes the world a smaller place, the value of having a common language is greatly increased. The question is-which language? Because the Internet grew up in the United States, the largest percentage of its content is now in English. Bill Gates, Microsoft's president, believes that English will remain valuable for a long time as a common language for international

¹ glaciers: slowly moving rivers of ice

² daredevil: very dangerous

³ life and limb: death and injury (idiom)

⁴ rivals: competes with

communication. His company spends \$200 million a year translating software into other languages. He says, "Unless you read English passably well, you miss out on some of the Internet experience." Someday, software may be available to instantly translate both written and spoken language so well that the need for any common language could decline. That day is decades away, however, because flawless machine translation is a very tough problem. Computer spelling checkers also exist for various languages. Software that does crude⁵ translations already exists. It is useful if all you are trying to do is understand the general idea of something you see on your computer screen. However, if you are trying to negotiate a contract or discuss a scientific subject where details are important, machine translation is totally useless (Gates).⁶

Paragraph 2

Even when you try to be polite, it is easy to do the wrong thing inadvertently⁷ in a new culture. For example, when someone offers you food or a beverage in the United States, accept it the first time it is offered. If you say, "No, thank you" because it is polite to decline the first one or two offers in your culture, you could become very hungry and thirsty in the United States. There, a host thinks that "no" means "no" and will usually not offer again. Meals in the United States are usually more informal than meals in other countries, and the times of meals may be different. Although North Americans are usually very direct in social matters, there are a few occasions when they are not. If a North American says, "Please drop by sometime," he may not want you to visit him in his home. Your clue that this may not be a real invitation is the word "sometime." In some areas of the United States, people do not expect you to visit them unless you have an invitation for a specific day and time. In other areas of the United States, however, "dropping by" is a friendly, neighborly gesture. Idioms are often difficult for newcomers to understand.

COHERENCE

Model Paragraph 1

Gold

1Gold, a precious metal, is prized for two important characteristics. 2First of all, gold has a lustrous beauty that is resistant to corrosion. 3Therefore, it is suitable for jewelry, coins, and ornamental purposes. 4Gold never needs to be polished and will remain beautiful forever. 5For example, a Macedonian coin remains as untarnished today as the day it was made 25 centuries ago. 6Another important characteristic of gold is its usefulness to industry and science. 7For many years, it has been used in hundreds of industrial applications, such as photography and dentistry. 8The most recent use of gold is in astronauts' suits. 9Astronauts wear gold-plated heat shields for protection when they go outside spaceships in space. 10 In conclusion, gold is treasured not only for its beauty but also for its utility.

⁵ crude: rough, unfinished

⁶ Gates, Bill. "One universal language for all on the Internet." Bill Gates: Technology. Syndicated column, 1977.

⁷ inadvertently: accidentally

Practice 2:

A. In the following paragraph, the key noun is never repeated. Replace the pronoun *it* with the key noun *English* wherever you think doing so would make the paragraph more coherent.

English

1English has almost become an international language. 2Except for Chinese, more people speak it than any other language. 3 Spanish is the official language of more countries in the world, but more countries have it as their official or unofficial second language. 4More than 70 percent of the world's mail is written in it. 5It is the primary language on the Internet. 6In international business, it is used more than any other language, and it is the language of airline pilots and air traffic controllers all over the world. 7Moreover, although French used to be the language of diplomacy, it has displaced it throughout the world. 8 Therefore, unless you plan to spend your life alone on a desert island in the middle--of the Pacific Ocean, it is a useful language to know.

B. In the following passage about dolphins, replace some of the pronouns with appropriate singular or plural nouns.

Dolphins

1Dolphins are interesting because they display almost human behavior at times. 2For example, they display the human emotions of joy and sadness. 3During training, when they do something correctly, they squeal excitedly and race toward their trainer. 4.When they make a mistake, however, they droop⁸ noticeably and mope⁹ around their pool. 5Furthermore, they help each other when they are in trouble. 6 If one is sick, it sends out a message, and others in the area swim to help it. 7They push it to the surface of the water so that it can breathe. 8. They stay with it for days or weeks until it recovers or dies. 9 They have also helped trapped or lost whales navigate their way safely out to the open sea. 10.They are so intelligent and helpful, in fact, that the

Practice 3:

Step 1 In the topic sentence of the following paragraph, underline the key noun that names the topic.

Step 2 Then circle (a) repetitions of the key nouns, (b) pronouns that refer to them, and (c) synonyms that are substitutes for them. You should have a total of 10 circles: 3 circles around key nouns, 3 around pronouns, and 4 around synonyms.

A Mardi Gras Custom

1 "Throw me something, mister," is the customary plea for a Mardi Gras "throw." 2 In the final days of Mardi Gras, the season of parties, parades, and revelry¹⁰ that precedes the Christian period of fasting and penance¹¹ called Lent, crowds of spectators line the streets of New Orleans. 3They hope;t0 catch a

⁸ droop: sink down

⁹ mope: act depressed

¹⁰ revelry: celebration, festivities

¹¹ penance: punishment that you accept to say that you are sorry for misbehavior

Mardi Gras souvenir tossed from parading floats. 4 Mardi Gras organizations called "krewes" build the floats and sponsor the parades, and while cruising along parade routes, costumed krewe members throw plastic trinkets to the crowds below. 5 The trinkets, which are called "throws," consist of bead necklaces, coins, cups, toys, Frisbees, and figurines stamped with the krewe's symbol or the parade theme. 6 Mardi Gras throws are big business for the companies that supply them. 7 Krewe members spend an average of \$800 on them, and some spend \$2,000 or more. 8 By far the most treasured of the Mardi Gras mementos are gaudy bead necklaces. 9 Originally made of glass, they are now made of plastic (Roach)

Practice 4:

In the following paragraph, the pronouns are not consistent. Correct them to make this paragraph more coherent.

Olympic Athletes

Olympic athletes must be strong both physically and mentally. First of all, if you hope to compete in an Olympic sport, you must be physically strong. Furthermore, aspiring¹² Olympians must train rigorously¹³ for many years. For the most demanding sports, they train several hours a day, five or six days a week, for ten or more years. In addition to being physically strong, athletes must also be mentally tough. This means that you have to be totally dedicated to your sport, often giving up a normal school, family, and social life. Being mentally strong also means that he or she must be able to withstand the intense pressure of international competition with its accompanying media coverage. Finally, not everyone can win a medal, so Olympians must possess the inner strength to live with defeat.

Practice 5:

Compare paragraphs 1 and 2 that follow. Which paragraph contains transition signals and is more coherent? Circle all the transition signals you can identify.

Paragraph 1

One difference among the world's seas and oceans is that the salinity¹⁴ varies in different climate zones. The Baltic Sea in northern Europe is only one-fourth as salty as the Red Sea in the Middle East. There are reasons for this. In warm climates, water evaporates¹⁵ rapidly. The concentration¹⁶ of salt is greater. The surrounding land is dry and does not contribute much freshwater to dilute¹⁷ the salty seawater. In cold climate zones, water evaporates slowly. The runoff created by melting snow adds a considerable amount of freshwater to dilute the saline seawater.

¹² aspiring: hopeful

¹³ rigorously: strictly, without weakness

¹⁴ salinity: salt content

¹⁵ evaporates: dries up

¹⁶ concentration: percentage (of salt)

¹⁷ dilute: reduce the concentration

Paragraph 2

One difference among the world's seas and oceans is that the salinity varies in different climate zones. For example, the Baltic Sea in northern Europe is only one-fourth as saline as the Red Sea in the Middle East. There are two reasons for this. First of all, in warm climate zones, water evaporates rapidly; therefore, the concentration of salt is greater. Second, the surrounding land is dry; consequently, it does not contribute much freshwater to dilute the salty seawater. In cold climate zones, on the other hand, water evaporates slowly. Furthermore, the runoff created by melting snow adds a considerable amount of freshwater to dilute the saline seawater.

Practice 6:

Step 1 Circle all the transition signals in the following paragraphs.

Step 2 Punctuate the transition signals if necessary.

Genetic Engineering

Genetic research has produced both exciting and frightening possibilities. Scientists are now able to create new forms of life in the laboratory because of the development of gene splicing. On the other hand, the ability to create life in the laboratory could greatly benefit humankind. One beneficial application of gene splicing is in agriculture. For example researchers have engineered a more nutritious type of rice that could help alleviate the serious problem of vitamin A deficiency. It is estimated that 124 million children worldwide lack vitamin A, putting them at risk of permanent blindness and other health issues. In addition genetic engineers have created larger fish, frost-resistant strawberries, and cows that produce more milk. Indeed agriculture has already benefited from the promise of genetic engineering.

On the other hand not everyone is positive about gene-splicing technology. Some people feel that it could have terrible consequences. In fact a type of corn engineered to kill a certain insect pest also threatened to annihilate desirable monarch butterflies. In another accident, a genetically engineered type of corn that was approved only for animal consumption because it was toxic to humans accidentally cross-pollinated with corn grown for humans. As a result many countries banned imports of genetically modified corn for several years. Furthermore the ability to clone human beings is a possibility that frightens many people. In 2004, two South Korean scientists reported that they had successfully cloned a human embryo (Dreifus). The embryo did not develop into a baby however it is possible that one could do so in the future, a possibility that not everyone is comfortable with.

Practice 7:

Read the following paragraphs and decide which kind of logical order is used in each: comparison/contrast, chronological order, or logical division of ideas. Be able to discuss the reasons for your choice. Circle all transition signals.

Paragraph 1

The process of machine translation of languages is complex. To translate a document from English into Japanese, for example, the computer first analyzes an English sentence, determining its grammatical structure and identifying the subject, verb, objects, and modifiers. Next, the words are translated by an English-Japanese dictionary. After that, another part of the computer program analyzes the resulting awkward jumble' of words and meanings and produces an intelligible sentence based on the rules of Japanese syntax and the machine's understanding of what the original English sentence meant. Finally, a human bilingual editor polishes the computer-produced translation.

Paragraph 2

French and U.S. business managers have decidedly different management styles. French meetings, for example, are long and rambling and rarely end on time. Furthermore, meetings often end without closure. Managers in the United States, on the other hand, make an effort to start and stop a meeting on time, and North American business meetings typically end with decisions and action plans. Another difference involves documentation. North Americans adore documentation; they have a procedure manual for everything. The French, in contrast, think this is childish. French managers find it difficult to stick to a schedule, but U.S. managers are intolerant of delays. In addition, the French prefer to work alone, whereas North Americans like to work in teams. Another major difference in management style is that in French companies, authority comes from the top; French managers do not share information with subordinates and make decisions with little participation by employees beneath them. In U.S. companies, however, top managers share information and frequently solicit input from subordinates

Paragraph 3

It took more than 2,500 years to develop the calendar used in most Western countries today. In about 700 B.C.E., the ancient Romans used a calendar that had 304 days divided into 10 months; March was the beginning of each year. There were more than 60 days missing from the calendar, so very soon the calendar did not match the seasons at all. Spring arrived when the calendar said that it was still winter. A few decades later, the Romans added the months of January and February to the end of the year. This calendar lasted about 600 years. Then in 46 B.C.E., Julius Caesar, the Roman ruler, made a new calendar. His calendar had 365 days, with one day added every fourth year. He also moved the beginning of the year to January 1, and he renamed a month for himself: Julius (July). In Caesar's calendar, February had 29 days. The very next emperor, Augustus, not only renamed a month for himself (August), but he also took one day from February and added it to August so that "his" month would be just as long as Caesar's. This calendar worked better than the previous ones, but it still was not perfect. By 1580, the first calendrical day of spring was 10 days too early, so in 1582, Pope Gregory XIII, the leader of the Roman Catholic religion, made a small change to make the calendar more accurate. In the Gregorian calendar, the year is still 26.3 seconds different from the solar year, but it will be a long time before this causes a problem.

FACTS VS. PROOFS

Practice 8:

Step 1 Decide which of the following statements is an opinion, a fact that needs proof, or a specific supporting detail. Write

- O for opinion
- *F-NP* for fact that needs proof
- *SSD* for specific supporting detail

Step 2 Discuss with your classmates what specific supporting details you might use to support the sentences you marked O and *F-NP*.

1. People who steal identities do a lot of damage before their victims become aware of it.
2. Punishment for identity thieves is not severe enough.
3. Last year, the losses of victims totaled more than \$7 billion.
4. Identity theft is more serious than any other type of theft.
5. Identity theft is increasing at a rapid pace.
6. In 2000, 31,000 cases of identity theft were reported to the Federal Trade Commission (FTC); in 2003, the number was 210,000.
7. Most people do not report identity theft to the police.
8. In 2003, 60 percent of identity theft victims did not notify the police, according to the FTC.
9. Identity theft happens to ordinary people, not just to the wealthy.

PLAGIARISM AND CITING SOURCES

MLA Stylesheet

IN-TEXT CITATION A universal language could bring countries together culturally and economically as well as increase good feelings among them (Kispert).

ENTRY IN WORKS-CITED LIST Kispert, Robert J. "Universal language." World Book Online Reference Center. 2004. World Book, Inc. 12 Sep. 2004 <<http://www.aolsvc.worldbook.aol.com/wb/Article?id=ar576960>>.

ONE AUTHOR (Clinton 17)

TWO OR MORE AUTHORS (Bamberger and Yaeger 62)
(Singleton et al. 345)

AUTHOR ALREADY MENTIONED (18)

NO AUTHOR ("2002 Olympics," par. 12)

QUOTED QUOTATION (qtd. in Herper 1)

ENCYCLOPEDIA ARTICLE WITH NO AUTHOR	("Global Warming")
ELECTRONIC SOURCE	(Kidder, par. 7) ("2000 Olympics," par. 12) (Gardiner, screens 2–3)
BOOK WITH ONE AUTHOR	Bryson, Bill. <u>The Mother Tongue: English and How It Got That Way</u> . New York: Avon, 1991.
BOOK WITH TWO OR MORE AUTHORS	Hall, Edward T., and Mildred Reed Hall. <u>Understanding Cultural Differences</u> . Yarmouth, ME: Intercultural, 1990.
BOOK WITH MORE THAN ONE EDITION	Baugh, Albert C., and Thomas Cable. <u>A History of the English Language</u> . 5th ed. Upper Saddle River, NJ: Prentice Hall, 2002.
ENCYCLOPEDIA ARTICLE	"Intelligence Test." <u>New Encyclopedia Britannica: Micropedia</u> . 15th ed.
MAGAZINE ARTICLE	Bamberger, Michael, and Don Yaeger. "Over the Edge." <u>Sports Illustrated</u> 14 Apr. 1997: 62–70.
NEWSPAPER ARTICLE	Epstein, Edward A. "A Less Social Society Is Becoming Shy." <u>San Francisco Chronicle</u> 14 Sep. 1995: A-1.
PERSONAL INTERVIEW	Jones, John. Personal interview. 31 Oct. 2003.
ONLINE SOURCE	Kispert, Robert J. "Universal Language." <u>World Book Online Reference Center</u> . 2004. World Book, Inc. 25 Mar. 2004 < http://www.aolsvc.worldbook.aol.com/wb/Article?id=ar576960 >. Leroux, Kivi. "Subliminal Messages: Primetime TV Programs Educate Viewers on the Environment." <u>E Magazine</u> July–Aug. 1999. 14 Sep. 2004 < http://www.emagazine.com/july-august_1999/0799curr_subliminal.html >.

STATISTICS

Practice 9:

Study the graphs that follow. Then complete the paragraph about world energy consumption by filling in the blanks with information from the graphs.

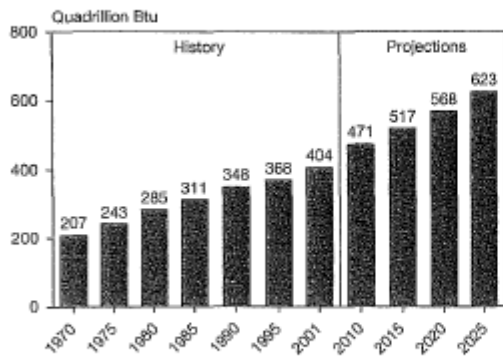


Figure 1. World Marketed Energy Consumption, 1970-2025

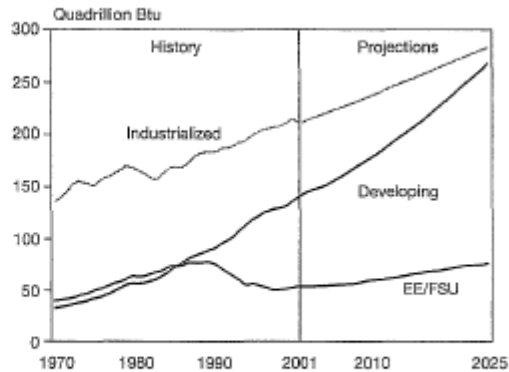


Figure 2. World Marketed Energy Consumption by Region, 1970-2025

World Energy Consumption!

World Energy Consumption!

According to (1) _____, world energy consumption has been steadily (2) _____. Currently, the nations of the world use between (3) _____ and (4) _____ quadrillion Btu (British thermal units) annually. By the year 2025, consumption is projected to increase to (5) _____ Btu, an increase of (6) _____ percent from the year (7) _____. The largest consumers are the (8) _____ countries, and the nations who consume the least energy belong to the EE/FSU (Eastern Europe/Former Soviet Union) group. Developing nations consumed approximately the same amount of energy as (9) _____ until (10) _____, when the energy use of developing nations began to (11) _____. By (12) _____, it is projected that their use will nearly equal that of (13) _____ ("International" 10).