**Effective Essay Writing- Coherence and Unity**

**Coherence:** is the product of many different factors, which combine to make every paragraph, every sentence, and every phrase in an essay (or other written work) contribute to the meaning of the whole piece.

**Unity:** To achieve paragraph unity, a writer must ensure two things. First, the paragraph must have a single focus of attention, one that is clearly defined in a *topic sentence*. Secondly, a writer must control the content of every other sentence in the paragraph's body such that (a) it contains more specific information than the topic sentence and (b) it maintains the same focus of attention as the topic sentence.

**How to create coherence and unity in essays - KNOW THIS!!!!**

**1. Use Transitions!!!!** Use a connecting words to link sentences together. What you use will depend on your purpose, but some examples to connect sentences and paragraphs together - and to the thesis – are:

* that is, that is to say, in other words, (indicates sameness)
* but, yet, however, nevertheless, still, though, although, whereas, in contrast, rather, (indicates a difference between ideas)
* and, too, also, furthermore, moreover, in addition, besides, in the same way, again, another, similarly, (adds)
* therefore, so, consequently, thus, as a result, hence, it follows that, because, since, for, (shows cause and effect)
* in fact, indeed, now, (shows a connection between ideas)
* for example, for instance, (shows a specific example)

**2. Parallel Structure!!!!** Repeat a sentence structure. This technique is the oldest, most overlooked, but probably the most elegant method of creating cohesion. Parallel structure means using the same pattern of words to show that two or more ideas have the same level of importance. The usual way to join parallel structures is with the use of coordinating conjunctions such as "and" or "or."

Example 1:

*Not Parallel:* Mary likes hiking, swimming, and to ride a bicycle.

*Parallel:* Mary likes hiking, swimming, and riding a bicycle.

Example 2:

*Not Parallel:* The coach told the players that they should get a lot of sleep, that they should not eat too much, and to do some warm-up exercises before the game.

*Parallel:* The coach told the players that they should get a lot of sleep, that they should not eat too much, and that they should do some warm-up exercises before the game.

**3.** **Ensure your pronouns references are consistent!!!** Remember that if you're referring to you, or we, or I, or one, try to remain consistently within the same case**.**

Example: *In Toni Morrison's The Bluest Eye, we find the narrator to be one of the few successful characters in terms of moral development. However, even the narrator, we soon realize, is seriously flawed.*

**4. Repetition:** The repetition of keys words, ideas and the repetition of sentence structure will also help keep your reader on track. Remember this is a written piece so the reader does not have any verbal cues to help them understand your ideas, so you have to guide them carefully from one step to the next. Repeating key vocabulary and writing clear topic sentences (which repeat a part of your thesis) will ensure your reader understands your message. Closing by return (a conclusion which restates the thesis and main ideas covered) is a great way to repeat vital information and unify your essay.