Cohesion and Coherence Peer Review for a Single Paragraph

Writer: _____   Reviewer: _____

Directions:
1. **Exchange papers with a partner. Do not talk about your work yet.**
2. **Fill out the peer review guide based on your partner's draft.**
3. **After you and your partner are finished, briefly discuss your responses.**

Handy Definitions (See reverse side for examples of each!):
(1) SAME SUBJECT STRATEGY. Sentences can elaborate on the topic, keeping the same subject (or an appropriate substitution term).
(2) TOPIC HAND-OFF STRATEGY. Sentences can elaborate on a subtopic introduced at the end of a sentence about the main topic. Thus, each sentence ender may potentially be the "given" topic in the subject of the next sentence.
(3) PREVIEW AND SHIFT STRATEGY. Sentences can explicitly introduce a new topic, using an appropriate transitional cue (e.g., "another related issue is whether...."). Or the paragraph can start off with a topic sentence that lists (previews) the upcoming topics in the paragraph.

1. **Choose a paragraph in your partner's draft to use for this exercise and put your initials next to it. Put the paragraph number here: _____.**

   a. What method(s) of cohesion does the writer employ (use the definitions above and the sample paragraphs on the back if you are unsure)? Identify an example by underlining two consecutive sentences and writing in the margin the method used. If the writer does not appear to use any of the methods, explain how you can tell that cohesion is lacking.

   b. Identify a sentence that effectively uses a pronoun (a word that takes the place of a noun, such as she, he, it, they, etc.). Then, in the space below, write that sentence and circle the pronoun. Then write the antecedent that it refers to. If no pronouns are used effectively, is there a sentence where a pronoun might be a useful addition?

   c. Does the writer use any transition words or phrases? If so, give an example. If not, are there any places that would benefit with the addition of a transition word or phrase.

   d. Do you think this paragraph maintains a clear focus? Explain in your own words why or why not below (remember this is NOT cohesion, but coherence).

2. **Based on how the paragraph you selected ends, what might the next paragraph be about? How can you tell?**
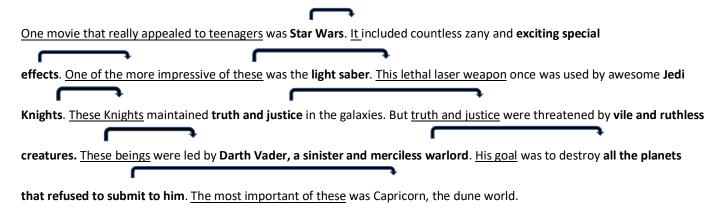
Same Subject Strategy:

The same subject (or a variation on it) is used at the start of each sentence to build on the information for the topic.

The Elite is currently the most popular racing shoe. In fact, it is worn by one of the world's top marathoners, T. Seko. It was developed by the innovative Nike Company. The Elite's most expensive feature is its waffle bottom. But the feature that runners value most is its seven ounce weight. The inventory of Elites includes many unusual sizes. For example, the Elite is made in triple E widths. The Elite is available in three different colors. However, it is easiest to obtain in blue. Finally, the Elite's low price is $29.95.

Topic Hand-Off Strategy:

The end of one sentence explicitly provides the subject for the next. Each sentence builds on a subtopic related to the subject provided in the previous sentence.

One movie that really appealed to teenagers was **Star Wars**. It included countless zany and **exciting special effects**. One of the more impressive of these was the **light saber**. This lethal laser weapon once was used by awesome **Jedi Knights**. These Knights maintained **truth and justice** in the galaxies. But truth and justice were threatened by **vile and ruthless creatures.** These beings were led by **Darth Vader, a sinister and merciless warlord**. His goal was to destroy **all the planets that refused to submit to him**. The most important of these was Capricorn, the dune world.

Preview and Shift Strategy:

Sentences can explicitly introduce a new subject by using a transitional cue (see below in bold). Alternatively, the paragraph may start off with a sentence that forecasts all of the subjects that will appear in a paragraph in the order they appear.

As I mentioned previously, e-mail is the primary form of electronic communication at St. Mary's. **Currently**, e-mails on campus fall into two main categories. **Predictably**, the first category is individual e-mails, which can take the form of memos or notes. **Additionally**, individual e-mails are often personal and may be sent to single colleagues or small groups. **Somewhat unfortunately**, the second category is InsideSMCM messages, which are also sent through e-mail but are impersonal since they are directed at large groups on campus instead of individuals. **Although** both types of e-mails can serve the purpose of relaying news, information, and directives across campus, InsideSMCM is sometimes less effective since it is generally a one-way posting of information. **By contrast,** individual e-mails typically allow for two-way conversation and follow-up questions, so they tend to be more effective. **Despite** the potential usefulness of both types of e-mails, some people on campus do not read either one.