

Cohesion and Coherence Practice:
Nestle, Pollan, and Kingsolver

Sample 1:

Adapted from Marion Nestle's *Food Politics* blog.

"[There is a French study] comparing the risk of getting cancer among people who consume conventional diets with those who mainly consume organic foods. Organics are relatively free of the most potentially harmful pesticides and herbicides."

1. How does this passage abide by the given-new contract?

2. If another sentence followed the second sentence in this passage, what should the subject of the sentence be according to the Topic Hand-Off strategy? _____

Hint: Remember that the Topic Hand-Off strategy ends one sentence with the subject for the next.

Sample 2:

Adapted from Michael Pollan's "What's for Dinner" from the NY Times blog *On the Table*:

"Complicated as they may seem, many of the questions [I receive from audiences] — Local or organic? Carnivore or vegetarian? — boil down to variations on the most basic question of all: What should we have for dinner?"

People often ask how I answer that question for myself. They're curious to know how my investigations of the food chain have changed the way I and my family eat"

1. Why is the underlined portion an example of the Same Subject Strategy?

Sample 3:

Adapted from Barbara Kingsolver's *Animal, Vegetable, Miracle*:

"This story about good food begins in a quik-stop convenience market. It was our family's last day in Arizona, where I'd lived half my life and raised two kids for the whole of theirs."

1. The reader may have difficulty following these sentences because of the way the word "It" is used. According to the Topic Hand-Off Strategy, "It" should refer to "a quik-stop convenience market." According to the Same Subject strategy, the "It" would refer to "This story." Kingsolver

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is most likely using the word “It” in reference to their “last day,” which is the beginning of the “story” she is telling.

In the space below, rewrite Kingsolver’s two sentences to adhere to the given-new contract and either avoid or clarify the pronoun reference issue. Try to keep her meaning and content the same, and use any of the three given-new strategies (Same Subject, Topic Hand-Off, or Preview and Shift).

Sample 4:

Adapted from Barbara Kingsolver’s *Animal, Vegetable, Miracle*:

“Our plan to make everything from scratch had pushed us into a lot of great learning experiences. In some cases, what we learned was that it was too much trouble for everyday: homemade pasta really is better, but we will always buy it most of the time, and save the big pasta-cranking events for dinner parties. Hard cheeses are hard. I never did try the French-class mayonnaise recipe. I’d also imagined at some irrational moment that I would learn to make apple cider and vinegar, but happily submitted to realism when I located professionals nearby doing these things really well. On the other hand, making our daily bread, soft cheeses, and yogurt had become so routine we now prepared them in minutes, without a recipe.”

1. What do the two underlined phrases have in common? What is their role?

2. Remember that the Preview and Shift Strategy can use a topic sentence to forecast the topics in the paragraph—how do you see that here? Give an example to support your answer.
