Paragraph Structure

In this activity, you will test your knowledge of the structure of a supporting paragraph.

1. **Match the type of sentence with the function it performs in the paragraph.** Does the topic sentence: provide the topic and controlling idea, support and develop the topic and controlling idea, or give a summary of the main points and conclude the main idea of the paragraph?
   
   Correct answer: the topic sentence provides the topic and controlling idea.

2. **Match the type of sentence with the function it performs in the paragraph.** Does the body: provide the topic and controlling idea, support and develop the topic and controlling idea, or give a summary of the main points and conclude the main idea of the paragraph?
   
   Correct answer: the body supports and develops the topic and controlling idea.

3. **Match the type of sentence with the function it performs in the paragraph.** Does the concluding sentence: provide the topic and controlling idea, support and develop the topic and controlling idea, or give a summary of the main points and conclude the main idea of the paragraph?
   
   Correct answer: the concluding sentence gives a summary of the main points.

4. **Where in a paragraph should you include supporting points?**
   
   a. The topic sentence
   b. The body (correct)
   c. The concluding sentence
   
   Correct response: Option ‘b’, the supporting points should be included in the body of the paragraph.

5. **In the following paragraph, which part of the paragraph acts as the body?**

   “The passing of an anti-smoking law in Toronto bars and restaurants is beneficial to business owners. When restaurants and bars have a reputation for being clean, more people frequent them. Banning smoking in restaurants would boost sales. When people go out to eat, they would much rather go to a restaurant that is not filled with smoky haze that leaves their clothes smelling awful for days. Also, when people eat dinner they prefer not to have an ashtray beside them. Banning smoking would make restaurants more aesthetically pleasing, and more people would visit. The smell of smoke also causes people to lose their appetites. If the city were to ban smoking in restaurants, sales would go up because patrons would eat more. Therefore, banning smoking in restaurants would encourage sales.

   Correct response: The centre of the paragraph (beginning at “When restaurants” and ending at “would eat more” is the body.

6. **True or false: The following paragraph does not have a concluding sentence.**

   “It is hard to find good movies to watch in the cinemas these days. Furthermore, the price of a ticket is so expensive. Indeed, the price for two tickets and popcorn can
sometimes be more expensive than dinner in a restaurant. Similarly, the cost to rent DVDs has increased over the years. In contrast, the price of print books has risen at a slower rate. For this reason, I don’t watch movies very much anymore. Before this happened, I used to see movies in the cinema regularly.”

A. True
B. False

Correct response:
The answer is ‘a: true’, this paragraph does not have a concluding sentence summarizing the main points and concluding the main idea of the paragraph.

7. In what order should the following sentences appear within the paragraph.
   a. In summary, because of the subject matter, the novel has been the target of censorship throughout its history.
   b. The novel itself has repeatedly faced censorship.
   c. According to the American Library Association, the novel ranks on a list of the 100 Most Frequently Challenged Books of the 1990’s (Rushowy).

Correct response: the sentences should appear in the following order:
- A: The novel itself has repeatedly faced censorship. (should appear first)
- B: According to the American Library Association, the novel ranks on a list of the 100 Most Frequently Challenged Books of the 1990’s (Rushowy). (should appear second)
- C: In summary, because of the subject matter, the novel has been the target of censorship throughout its history. (should appear third)

8. What part of the paragraph does each of the following sentences belong in? (matching or drop-down)
   a) The passing of an anti-smoking law in Toronto bars and restaurants is beneficial to the city.
   b) Therefore, banning smoking in restaurants would encourage sales.
   c) The smell of smoke also causes people to lose their appetites. If the city were to ban smoking in restaurants, sales would go up because patrons would eat more.

Correct response: The first sentence is the topic sentence, the second sentence is the concluding sentence, and the third sentence belongs in the body.

9. In the following paragraph, which part of the paragraph acts as the concluding sentence?
   “Censorship of the novel in school or anywhere else is incredibly reminiscent of the strict regulations enforced in the Republic of Gilead. Women are not “permitted” (Atwood 195) to read; this is a privilege granted only to men. Even for men, reading materials are restricted to
what is considered suitable: magazines, officially, have been burned (196). In Gilead, “[w]hat’s dangerous in the hands of the multitudes ... is safe enough for those whose motives are ... beyond reproach” (Atwood 196). Gilead’s elite recognize reading as a conduit for ideas and seek to limit this sort of thought. This is the function of censorship, regardless of any moralistic intent; censorship is a way to restrict the flow of controversial ideas. Thus, we see that censorship of Atwood’s novel is the same as the censorship enforced by the Republic of Gilead to ensure that the state retains control.”

Correct response: The last sentence of the paragraph is the concluding sentence.

Congratulations! You have completed the activity.