COHESION AND COHERENCE

Cohesion and Coherence

Cohesion and **coherence** are important aspects of the structure of academic writing as they have an influence on the readability and logical flow of the text.

Cohesion refers to **the logical flow** and **connection** in a written text and is achieved through the use of devices to link sentences together so that there is a **logical flow between ideas** from one sentence to the next.

Coherence refers to **the unity** or **togetherness** of the text as **a whole** and is achieved through **the effective grouping** and **arrangement** of **ideas** in **a logical order**.

Paragraphs generally follow a typical structure:

The first sentence in the paragraph is the **topic sentence**. This sentence defines the scope of the paragraph, encapsulates or organises the paragraph and relates to the **thesis** of the text. The topic sentence is usually followed by **supporting evidence** for the claims made in the paragraph and an **elaboration** on the claims. It is important to draw the reader's attention to the point you want to make with your claims.

Cohesion in Paragraphs

Cohesion in paragraphs can be achieved by the use of logical connectors to link sentences.

There is a wide variety of words that can be used to make a logical connection between concepts and sentences. It is important to use them correctly and not overuse certain linking phrases.

Remarks on Cohesion:

- Make sure the words and the sentences are logically connected.
- Use effective logical connectors.
- Be careful not to overuse certain linking phrases.
- Make use of pronouns, especially 'this' for linking.
  E.g. *Global Warming is caused by man-made or anthropogenic causes. **This** has been fiercely debated.*

Example:

Thousands of people visit Yosemite National Park each year. They come to experience the natural beauties of the magnificent rock cliffs and to enjoy the great outdoors.   These rock cliffs pose a great danger from rockslides**.**

(NOT COHESIVE)

Thousands of people visit Yosemite National Park each year. They come to experience the natural beauties of the magnificent rock cliffs and to enjoy the great outdoors. However, what they do not realize is that as beautiful they are, these rock cliffs also pose a great danger from rockslides.

(**COHESIVE**)

Logical connectors			
Additive words *add information to what has already been given*		**Order words** *used to identify a specific sequence or order of events*	
also and as well as at the same time besides equally important	further furthermore in addition likewise moreover too	afterwards at the same time before first(ly), second(ly)… formerly last(ly) later meanwhile next	presently subsequently now then ultimately until while historically today
Amplification words *expand upon previous ideas*		**Summarising words** *identifies the main line for argument*	
as for example for instance in fact	specifically such as that is to illustrate	In conclusion to summarise to sum up in summary	briefly in brief in short
Repetitive words *used to repeat something with more emphasis*		**Qualifying words** *introduce conditions*	
again in other words	that is to repeat	although if	providing unless
Contract and change words *used to introduce a contrasting argument*		**Cause and effect words** *used to link ideas of casualty and consequence*	
but nothwithstanding on the other hand even though however in contrast	conversely despite still though whereas yet	accordingly as a result because consequently for this reason	since so then therefore thus
Emphasising words *used to highlight important information*			
more/most significantly more/most importantly	above all		

Coherence in Academic Writing

Paragraphs have to be coherent. This means that the parts of your paragraph need to link to each other in a logical way so that the reader may easily follow the development of your ideas and argument.

All parts of the text have to relate to each other in the context in which it appears and there has to be effective transition from one part or idea to the next. Coherence ensures that the 'bigger picture' is clear.

Remarks on Coherence:

- Ensure that your arguments are logically structured and arranged
- Develop arguments logically using paragraphs
- Be sure to have a clear introduction, body and conculsion
- Make sure every part of the text fits together
- Ensure that every new paragraph is related to the previous one
- Plan the flow and development of your argument before you start writing
- Ensure that paragraphs are conceptually linked, and not only sentences

Example:

   Apple computers have become increasingly popular, especially in educational and media circles. With their user-friendfly, no bells and whistles style they soon became a standard. Apple computers offer virtually an endless resource to simple, yet effective software.
Software is key to success in a global world. When the world became globalized many difficult issues begin to emerge.
(NOT COHERENT)

   "Your goal must be something that you can possibly do. You may not be able to lose 100 pounds, buy a bank, or have ten children. If your goals seem out of reach, think of them as possible long-term goals, and set something more achievable as a short moderate term goal. Lose ten pounds, save some money, or start dating!" *–Mark Banschick M.D*
(COHERENT)