4 Coherence: making the joins visible – Part 2

Name: _____ Class: _____ Date: _____

Vocabulary

Write each word three times.

English	**Write it 3 times** (English)		
Coherence			
transition			

Recall

- You have read a paragraph that jumped without warning.
- You have used "furthermore" without thinking about what it claimed.
- You know a clear essay is easier to disagree with, not harder.

New ideas

Read these first. Each idea has a short worked example. Then do the Practice below.

■ 1 Coherence at three levels

Coherence works between clauses in a sentence, between sentences in a paragraph, and between paragraphs in an essay. A failure at any level makes the argument hard to follow.

Worked example. A paragraph whose sentences are each clear can still be incoherent if they do not follow one another.

■ 2 Transitions name relationships

A **transition** tells the reader what relationship holds between two ideas. If the relationship does not exist, the transition is a false signal.

Worked example. "However" promises a contrast; if the second sentence agrees with the first, the reader is misdirected.

■ 3 Coherence is arrangement

Transitions cannot create a connection that the arrangement does not contain. If an essay is hard to follow despite many transitions, the order is wrong.

Worked example. Reordering two paragraphs often removes the need for the transition that was holding them together.

Watch out: Test each transition by asking what relationship it claims and whether the two ideas actually stand in it. Most weak transitions are claiming a link that is not there.

Practice

2.1 Name the three levels at which coherence works. [3]

2.2 State what a transition tells the reader. [1]

2.3 Explain what happens when a transition names a relationship that does not exist. [2]

2.4 An essay is full of transitions and hard to follow. State the likely problem. [2]

2.5 State the test to apply to each transition. [2]