

## Revising for organization within paragraphs exercise

Find a four to six paragraph passage in which internal paragraph structure could use improvement (i.e., the beginnings of some of the paragraphs don't correspond with the paragraph's topic and the sentences within some paragraphs seem to be in random order). The passage should consist of unified paragraphs; if it doesn't, revise it to address that first (see lesson 9). This passage could be from your own writing or someone else's, and could be any sort of scientific writing—a book chapter, a review, a discussion from a primary paper, a background section of a proposal, etc.

A. Use note cards to revise the passage:

Write the purpose of each paragraph on one side of each card and the first sentence (or two, if the second sentence seems to indicate the topic) on the other side.

1) How well does the beginning of the paragraph correspond to the paragraph's purpose? Why do you think the author began the paragraph this way?

Revise each paragraph so that the beginning indicates the topic by modifying the first or second sentence, rearranging the sentences within the paragraph, or composing a new beginning sentence.

2) Explain why you revised each paragraph the way you did. How does the new beginning indicate the topic?

B. Revise the order of sentences within each paragraph:

3) What is the general relationship among sentences within each paragraph? How does this relate to the content of the paragraph?

4) How well does each sentence's position in the paragraph reflect its relationship to the others?

Rearrange the sentences according to your answers to the questions.

Turn in:

- The source of the passage you analyzed and revised (if it's published, give the citation; if it's not, it must be your own writing)
- Your answers to questions 1-4
- Your revision of the passage using track changes in Word (no need to go beyond organization in your revision) OR your revision and the original