

Millersville University  
THE WRITING CENTER

# Paper Cohesion



## Definition

## Levels

- 1: Paragraph Level
- 2: Section Level
- 3: Paper Level

## Creating Cohesion in Your Paper

- How to Achieve Cohesion
- Cohesion through Arrangement

# Definition

## Cohesion

Cohesion in writing refers to the content of your writing coming together as one. It refers to the organization, flow, focus, coherence, and unity of your writing. To create a cohesive paper and keep your reader's interest, each of your ideas should flow from one idea to the next. As a writer, your goal should be to connect your ideas and relate them back to your controlling idea also known as your thesis statement.

# Levels

## There Are 3 Levels of Cohesion

### 1. Paragraph Level Cohesion

Make sure that you have a good topic sentence, or controlling idea, for each paragraph. Each new paragraph is the start of a new idea, so you want to make sure that you follow the topic sentence for each paragraph.

## There Are 3 Levels of Cohesion

### 2. Section Level Cohesion

The controlling or main idea for a section is known as a section thesis. Section-level cohesion is making sure that each paragraph in your section follows your section thesis.

## There Are 3 Levels of Cohesion

### 3. Paper Level Cohesion

Paper-level cohesion is making sure that your paper (all your sections and all the paragraphs within those sections) follows your paper's thesis, which is the controlling idea for your paper.

## How to Achieve Cohesion in Your Paper

1. Identify A Focal Point
2. Consider the Arrangement of Your Paper
3. Utilize Cohesive ties

# Creating

## Identify a Focal Point

When writing your paper, you will need to have a main idea or main point to your paper (this is typically going to be your thesis statement). Similarly, each section you write should have a main point that helps to support or relate to your thesis statement in some way. Additionally, each paragraph should follow this pattern and include a main point or idea.

The simplest way to identify a focal point is to consider what you want your main idea to be for your paper overall, what you want the main idea of each section of your paper to be (should you have multiple sections), and finally what you want the main idea of each paragraph to be.

Helpful strategies to determine your focal point include creating outlines, word maps/webs, and going back to your research question (if you had one) and answering that question.



# Creating

## Creating Cohesion Through Arrangement

<p><b>Arrangement by Time</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>■ Chronological Order</li><li>■ Reverse Chronological Order</li></ul>	<p><b>Arrangement by Specificity</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>■ Deductive Order (Main Idea with Specifics Following)</li><li>■ Inductive Order (Specifics First with Main Idea After)</li></ul>	<p><b>Arrangement by Importance</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>■ Order Points from Most Important to Least (&amp; vice versa)</li></ul>
<p><b>Arrangement by Classification</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>■ Topics Determine Order</li><li>■ Principles Determine Order</li></ul>	<p><b>Arrangement by Space</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>■ Organized Based on Distance or Relation to a Given Subject</li></ul>	<p><b>Arrangement by Familiarity</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>■ Start With What Is Familiar to Audience the go to Unfamiliar</li><li>■ Start With Unfamiliar and Move to Familiar</li></ul>

# Creating

## Cohesive Ties

Cohesive ties refer to devices used to connect ideas in a text

### Cohesive Ties Example (Transitions)

**First**, it is not wise to leave the door open. **Second**, it is even worse to leave it open when running the air conditioner.

Cohesive ties include:

- Deictic expressions (pointers in text like here or now that allow you to identify time & place)
- Transitions
- Repetition
- Parallelism
- Sentence structure


## Paper Cohesion

# References

Farkas, Kerrie R. H. *The Transportable Writing Tool: A Guide for Writing and Revising*. 2nd ed. Kendall Hunt Publishing Company, 2020.

# For More Information

## Make An Appointment With the Writing Center

Make an appointment through Starfish  or send an email to the Writing Center and a tutor will be in touch

 writing.center@millersville.edu

 <https://www.millersville.edu/enwl/writing-center/>

 McNairy Library, Room 106

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