

Creating a Sentence Outline

--Define your "stance" within the rhetorical situation and the logical structure of Primary Supports for your argument in support of your Thesis

Rhetorical Stance	
Subject:	
Essay Question(Issue):	
Thesis (answer):	
The Logical Structure of Support:	
-each one phrased as a Topic/Transition/Linking Sentence (you need at least three)	
Primary Support #1	
Primary Support #2	
Primary Support #3	
Primary Support #4?	
Primary Support #5?	

Example: from example critical essay with research:

<http://www.lirvin.net/1302/EGcritessaywresearch.pdf>

Rhetorical Stance	
Subject:	Magical Realism and "A Very Old Man with Enormous Wings"
Essay Question(Issue):	Does the story, "A Very Old Man with Enormous Wings," by Gabriel Garcia Marquez similarly add meaning to his story through magical realism?
Thesis (answer):	Without question, core elements of magical realism are clearly used for unique effects within the story "A Very Old Man with Enormous Wings."
The Logical Structure of Support:	
-each one phrased as a Topic/Transition/Linking Sentence (you need at least three)	
Primary Support #1	The first aspect of magical realism utilized by Marquez is he melds fantasy with ordinary realistic events giving plausibility to both.
Primary Support #2	Second, by being inconsistent and contradictory, Marquez influences the reader's point of view: another characteristic seen in magical realism.
Primary Support #3	Additionally, another characteristic of magical realism apparent in Marquez's story is the use of transformations or metamorphosis.

The Key to Coherence: Topic/Transition/Linking Sentences

I call this sign post when you move from one primary support to the next a "Topic/Transition/Linking" sentence. A Topic/Transition/Linking Sentence comes in the first sentence of each body paragraph and DOES three things:

- 1) It gives a signal word (a transition telling the reader here is a primary support)
- 2) It reconnects with or restates the thesis
- 3) It presents the primary support (reason) to be focused on in that paragraph

Look at this example from an argument/persuasion essay:

Position: The government should not regulate TV violence.

---signal--- | -----link to thesis----- | -----primary support (reason)---

P#2: **First of all, I oppose this government regulation because it is censorship and violates the first amendment freedom of speech.**

---Signal | -----link to thesis----- | -----primary support (reason)-----

P#3: **In addition, this regulation is a bad idea because it would hurt the networks' business.**

Signal | -----link to thesis----- | -----primary support (reason)

P#4: **Finally, I believe the government should not regulate TV violence because it is not necessary--TV is not the cause of violence in America.**

Think of these sentences like a one-two-three punch: transition-link-reason.

The most important feature of these transition sentences is the LINK back to the thesis. Always present your Primary Supports in terms of the Thesis which they are supporting or developing. You can repeat the Thesis word for word in your transitions, but in order not to sound too redundant, you would be wise to vary the way your link back to your thesis. All you need to do is remind the reader of what the whole paper is about (your thesis).

Here is an example of varying the phrasing of your link back to the thesis:

Essay Question: What is Hamlet's tragic flaw?

Thesis: Hamlet's tragic flaw is his cowardice.

P#2: First, cowardice as Hamlet's tragic flaw can be seen ...

P#3: Further evidence pointing to fear and lack of courage as his tragic flaw can be seen...

P#4: Finally, Hamlet's flaw is clearly cowardice because...

Note: This example manages to avoid using "because." I urge you to use because as you introduce your Primary Supports because it clearly frames this content as a reason.

Material taken from the Guide for Coherence: <http://www.lirvin.net/WGuides/Coherence.htm>