

# The Logical Flow in Writing

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Reference:

*Connecting Your Ideas*. Lumen Learning. (n.d.). <https://courses.lumenlearning.com/boundless-writing/chapter/connecting-your-ideas/>.

*Create perfect logical flow in your writing*. The Writers College Times. (2018, March 10). <https://www.writerscollegeblog.com/create-perfect-logical-flow-in-your-writing/>.

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# Definition

The writing skill of 'logical flow' can be defined as all the aspects of your writing that help the reader move smoothly from one sentence to the next, and one paragraph to another.

It is the logical flow of your thoughts, and sentences.

No unnecessary gaps, stops, or jumping-between ideas in writing.



# Definition~

Readers don't want bumps, unintended surprises or to feel threatened in any way. They don't want to follow a train of thought, only for it to lead to a dead-end, or for a new idea to be dumped on them without warning.

Imagine that readers should ideally follow your thoughts as effortlessly as cruising down a river through the countryside.



# The logic of the essay - Skeleton

...

A thesis that lists your main claims in a certain order



Body paragraphs' order should follow your thesis claims' order  
*(assume each body paragraph will focus on one main claim)*



Explain your sub-claims follow the order in the topic sentence  
*(a topic sentence lists any sub-claims your have to prove the main claim in that paragraph)*



Review your main claims follow the order in your thesis

...

# The logic of the essay – Example

**Thesis:** *I will analyze the appointed image from 3 aspects, source, colors, and texts.*



**Body 1 topic sentence:** *The image is used in a poster of the XXX health organization that warns people the harm of smoking.*



**Body 2 topic sentence with 3 sub-claims:** *By using only 2 colors, the image ensured **simplicity**, displayed **contrasted messages**, and guaranteed **a focus point** for readers.*



**Body 3 topic sentence with 2 sub-claims:** *Apply to all images, the chosen image also includes two types of texts, **visible texts** and **hidden messages**.*



**Review in conclusion:** *As analyzed, the image was designed by professionals that effectively used only two colors and clearly illustrated how smoking is killing people slowly...*

# The logic of the essay – Explanation

The order of claims in thesis, the order of paragraphs, the order of claims in conclusion, they all should be the same order;

The order of sub-claims in each topic sentence, the order of sub-claims, their examples and explanations in each paragraph, they should be the same order.

*If your thesis says you will be talking about blue, red, and green, your paragraphs should be ordered as blue, red, and green (blue, green, and red will be wrong).*

*(A topic sentence is the first sentence in each body paragraph.)*

# The logic in a body paragraph

A body paragraph normally have one to three sub-claims which prove one of your main claims from your thesis.

The first time you will mention your sub-claims is in the topic sentence of that paragraph. The order of the sub-claims in the topic sentence decides the order of your sub-claims and their explanations in the paragraph.



# The logic in a body paragraph~

Your sub-claims must prove the main claim in that paragraph.

Your examples/evidence must prove/demonstrate your sub-claims.

e.g. this is a body paragraph structure:

*Topic sentence: sub-claim that proves a main claim + the sub-claim's statement/relationship with the main claim + 1 example proves the statement/relationship with explanation + introduction to a quote, a quote that also proves the statement/relationship, and explanation for the quote + short summary/review the statement/relationship in another way + a transition sentence to the next body paragraph*

# The logic between body paragraphs

Assume each body paragraph focuses on one of the main claims from your thesis, body paragraphs' order should follow the main claims' order in the thesis.

Between body paragraphs, transition sentences are needed to provide connections- show exactly how your main claims are connected.

A transition sentence located at the end of a paragraph hint at the next paragraph /main claim.

# The logic between body paragraphs~

You can use a question to signal a shift:

*...It's clear, then, that the band's biggest selling original compositions were written early in their career, but what do we know about their later works?*

You could conclude by comparing the claim in the current paragraph with the claim in the next:

*...While the Democratic Republic of Congo is rich in natural resources, it has led a troubled political existence.*

An “if–then” structure is a common transition technique:

*...If we are decided that climate change is now unavoidable, then steps must be taken to avert complete disaster.*

# The logic in a sentence

The logical flow in a sentence refers to continuity of style, such as usage of point of view, attitudes, tenses and language usage, pronouns, etc.

A non-logical sentence could confuses both the writer and the readers. While writing without logic, the writer might lose track of what to express next; while reading a non-logical sentence, the readers are likely to be confused and have doubt on the writer's credibility.

# The logic in a sentence~

- **Point of view**

Don't switch perspectives in writing. If you are writing from a third person perspective, you can't suddenly switch to first person-especially in the conclusion.

- **Attitudes**

Don't attack/disagree with your own claims. Your claims could have space for improvement, but don't support the counterargument. You suppose to defend your claim from the counterargument's point of view.



# The logic in a sentence~~

- **Tenses and language usage**

The tenses and language usage need to be consistent. Unless it's a paraphrase, a quote normally has its own tense. Other than that, your expressions and explanations should use the same tense throughout the essay. If you refer to an item/a place/an idea, be consistent on the name; don't use different names for the item/place/idea.

- **Pronouns**

Be clear and specific. Don't give the readers any chance to be confused. *E.g. My uncle and my dad grew up together; he told me stories about how he was afraid of dark.* - it is not clear who told the story and who was afraid of the dark. *Correct: My uncle and my dad grew up together; my dad told me stories about how my uncle was afraid of dark / my uncle told me stories about how my dad was afraid of dark.*

# **The logic between sentences**

**Not only paragraphs need to be connected, sentences also need to be connected- to show the readers you are moving to the next idea/sub-claim/point.**

**Once have a logical order for the sentences in a paragraph, it is essential to ensure there is a bridge/connection from each sentence to the next one.**

**A variety of transition words and short phrases are commonly used to create bridges/connections between sentences.**

# **The logic between sentences~**

**Don't use transition words or short phrases for almost every sentence in a paragraph; use them only when it is necessary.**

**Don't start a sentence with the word "and" or "but."**

**Don't start a new idea/sub-claim/point without a proper transition; the transition word /short phrase will act as an introduction for the new idea.**



# The logic between sentences~~

**To indicate addition:** besides, equally important, finally, further, furthermore, nor, too, next, lastly, what's more, moreover, in addition...

**To indicate comparison:** whereas, but, yet, on the other hand, however, nevertheless, on the contrary, by comparison, compared to, up against, balanced against, although, conversely, in contrast, although this may be true...

**To indicate an example:** for example, for instance, in this case, in another case, on this occasion, in this situation, take the case of, to demonstrate, to illustrate, consider...

# The logic between sentences ~~~

**To indicate a logical connection:** because, since, for the same reason, obviously, evidently...

**To show time:** immediately, thereafter, soon, after a while, finally, then, later, previously, formerly, first (second, etc.)...

**To qualify a statement:** under no circumstances, mainly, generally, predominantly, usually, the majority, most of, almost all, a number of, some, a few, a little, fairly, very, quite, rather,

**To summarize/ indicate repetition:** in brief, as I have said, as I have noted, as has been noted, as we have seen...

# Review and check for success



Your body paragraphs' order should match your main claims' order in the thesis.

Your sub-claims, their examples, and their explanations' order should match your sub-claims' order in the topic sentence.

Your reviews' order should match your main claims' order in the thesis.

# Review and check for success~

In a body paragraph, your main claim should be proved by the sub-claims; then your sub-claims should be proved by quotes/examples with explanations.

Your should have proper transitions between sentences and paragraphs. Don't overuse transition words/short phrases; use them only when you are ready to move on.

# Review and check for success~~

Be aware of your point of view, attitudes, tenses, and language usage in writing; they should be consistent unless it is a quote word for word.

If your essay involves a counterargument, make sure you are defending your claim, not the counterargument.

Your thoughts in writing should flow smoothly and have a sense of coherence.

# Logic helps you to convince your readers

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