

## Problematic Paragraphs

Pretend you are working with a student who wrote your assigned paragraph. Try to figure out what is wrong with the paragraph. Then give some advice to the student on how to make improvements. Use your glossary to help give the student some useful terms.

### Paragraph 1

My client is innocent of assaulting the victim. My client is a kind family man who would never even consider committing such a crime. In addition, he has always been able to control his temper, even in difficult and trying situations. Furthermore, my client was not even near the scene of the crime when it occurred. I would also add that all of the evidence the prosecution has presented against my client points instead to his innocence. I rest my case.

### Paragraph 2

One of my favorite hobbies is traveling. I decided to get a job that paid me to travel because I just couldn't afford my habit. I worked for a company called Offroad where I led bicycle trips. It was a really hard job. I got to spend two months living and working in France's wine country. France had an amazing king named Charlemagne. I like cheese. I went to the south and stood on the red carpet where they hold the Cannes Film Festival. Riding bikes all summer was great, and traveling around France was incredible. The job was too much work and not enough play. While it fed my traveling addiction, I knew that job wasn't for me.

### Paragraph 3

There was a fieldtrip to the zoo where students saw various animals from different kingdoms and parts of the world. During the trip, the children were also able to pet a few animals. Sally bought a stuffed

bear. The most popular animals at the zoo were the penguins that were swimming around and putting on a show. The best part of the trip was looking at the dinosaurs at the museum.

#### Paragraph 4:

Beethoven is a wonderful role model for deaf people. He struggled with deafness. He did not let it stop him. Beethoven began going deaf in his late 20's, and by the time he was 44, he was completely deaf. He tried to hide his deafness. Conversation became impossible, and he finally had to stop conducting (Kubba). Instead of becoming completely depressed, he absorbed himself in his work and continued composing. He said, "Music is the mediator between the spiritual and sensual life" ("Beethoven Quotes"). Beethoven was musically literate. He could imagine the sound of the music in his head without needing to hear it. He set his piano on the floor and felt the vibrations it made when he played music ("Ludwig Van Beethoven"). He died on March 26<sup>th</sup>, 1827. He had composed nine symphonies, five piano concertos, one violin concerto, one opera, and thirty two piano sonatas (Kubba).

#### Paragraph 5:

South Philly is where the movie Rocky was filmed, where singer Frankie Avalon grew up, and where many different ethnic groups come together in the Italian Market. If you visit South Philadelphia, you will see old synagogues, the oldest Lebanese community in America, and a concentration of immigrants from the Mexican city of Puebla. Young, upwardly mobile families stroll up Passyunk Avenue and visit the many playgrounds while Italian Americans with deep roots in the neighborhood play chess at the Singing Fountain and hang out on the stoops. Italy is a beautiful country to visit. My grandfather escaped the Holocaust by walking through the Italian Alps. The various groups of people in the neighborhood don't always get along. In general, it is a nice place to visit or live.



## Answer Key

### Paragraph 1

- No supporting evidence, only claims (arguments)
- No “because reason” for the main point/topic sentence

### Paragraph 2

- Lack transitions
- Lacks unity (what do cheese and Charlemagne have to do with this guy’s bike trip?)

### Paragraph 3

- Lacks unity
- Lacks a topic sentence
- Lacks important information (coherence) (who is Sally?)

### Paragraph 4

- Lacks coherence
- Lacks transitions

### Paragraph 5

- No topic sentence
- Lacks unity
- Lacks coherence