Step 3: Organize Evidence/Plan/Outline (Coherence)

Three considerations—

1. Overall structure/Length

Model Paragraph

1. TS: Changes in families today + weakened family life
2. 1st Major Supporting Point (Reason)—Mom not there

(2-3) Details: (then)—dad working; (now)—mom is gone; afterschool programs

1. 2nd Major Supporting Point—no more eating together

(2-3) Details: (then)—Mom fixed dinners; (now)—fast food, take out

1. 3rd Major Supporting Point—TV

(2-3) Details: (then)—talk together; (now)—TV in separate rooms

1. Concluding Sentence

11-14 sentences

Consideration #2: Use of Transitions—used to move one idea to the next; like traffic signal/sign; directional devices

Standard number of transitions: 3-5 per paragraph

Three biggies/types of transitions:

* Moving along to the next point—in addition, furthermore, also, moreover
* Showing details—for example, for instance, to illustrate
* Conclusions—clearly, indeed, certainly, surely, obviously

Consideration #3: How will I arrange my three supporting points?

Ordering strategies/organizational strategies: Two types

1. Time order: arranging the major points in the order that they occur (for stories)
2. \*\*emphatic order: arrange points in order of importance; “save the best for last” strategy

Use transitions: the most important reason is…; best of all, worst of all, the most significant point is…, the greatest reason is…

Coherence means—

Appropriate structure (11-14 sentences)

Transitions (3-5)

Conscious order/not random