

Sample Workshop Responses

WRITING

Mr. Ashline

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Super!

Writer's Name _____

Reviewer's Name _____

PEER REVIEW WORKSHOP FOR NARRATIVE PARAGRAPHS

Read your partner's paragraph carefully and underline the topic sentence, the main supporting sentences, and the concluding sentence. Answer the following questions in as much detail as possible. Your honesty in answering these questions can only help the writer during the revision process. Moreover, your willingness to do so will reflect well on your participation grade for the course.

1. What is the subject of the topic sentence? What is the controlling idea? Is the writer's attitude toward the topic conveyed in the topic sentence? Is the topic sentence general enough to cover the subject of the paragraph? What strategies for revising the topic sentence can you provide for the writer?

Your subject of the T.S. is "A Strange Dream" but I couldn't find any controlling idea. Furthermore, your Topic Sentence is a commonplace remark. I didn't feel any interest in your T.S. also I couldn't figure out what would go on after that sentence. Thus, I recommend you to revise the Topic Sentence, more excitingly and mysteriously so that readers have strong anxiety for finding out what happened to you after reading your Topic Sentence. Remember: you're half done!

2. Does the writer use a sufficient number of main supporting sentences to develop the topic? Are all of the main supporting sentences related to the topic sentence or are some of them inappropriate to the subject of the paragraph? Are each of the main supporting sentences developed and explained with detail supporting sentences? Are a sufficient number of these being used? Does the body of the paragraph seem well-developed with sufficient detail or would you recommend areas where more development is needed?

Where are the primary supporting sentences? You just arranged the facts. Even if narration is the sequence of time, you have to make primary supporting sentences, and then add the secondary supporting sentences. How to do is... first, you must arrant them in freewrite as much, and long as possible. Second, Group the items and drop unnecessary or irrelevant ideas. Third, give each group the name, I mean generalize the specific ideas. Finally, make them sentences and arrange them by special order - time, space, importance, etc...

As you put all the supporting sentences into your paragraph, be sure to use appropriate Transition Words. You already put transitions into your paragraph, and it's also appropriate. But vary them variously. You use the word "after" for three times. Substitute "since, then, after that..." for "after."

3. Does the paragraph have a concluding sentence that restates the topic sentence in different words and summarizes briefly the main supporting sentences of the paragraph? Does the concluding sentence give you a sense of closure as you read it or do you feel as though the paragraph could go on after the last sentence?

Your C.S. is "When I think of my present situation, I get goosebumps all over with the strangeness of my dream." It's a kind of restating the T.S. but you use the word "strange" again. I think you should find another appropriate word for that. Unsurprisingly, I don't understand why you get goosebumps by thinking your present situation. Please explain to me.

24

4. Circle any stylistic problems that you notice in the paragraph. Explain the problems as you note them. Are there any stylistic problems or weaknesses that you note? Do you see any unnecessary repetition of phrases and words? Can you recommend any changes to make the language of the paragraph more lively and interesting?

First of all, there are a lot of comma splices. If the preposition phrases, conjunction, or adverb phrases are not at the front of the sentence, then you should put comma between the phrase & the subject. To mention some examples, in the second line, "In my dream, it was day time in the morning," you have to make comma between dream and it. And in the tenth line, "On the other hand, he had no..."

In addition, describe your dream and duration of that time more vividly. For example, tell your feeling about that dream. You uttered only "strange or goosebumps, my skin jumps" you describe more of your feeling by describing that with your own words. In dream land after the "after" dream!

you didn't explain the reason why you get goosebumps, the concluding sentence doesn't give me a sense of closure. I feel as if you write more, you can!

also, you have to mark comma between hand and he. The fourteenth and the fifteenth line are not the same. You should put comma between However and he, in the same way, between Obviously and I.

OK, now, let's look up your grammatic errors from top to bottom. In the seventh line, "to not" is ~~not~~ ^{do not} ~~disagree~~, you have to answer the article "a", because "disagree" is non-countable noun. In the next line, "I was sitting in the chair," phrase, change the preposition "in" to "on". "sit on" is the correct expression. In the eight line, "At that time, I could not have imagined to be," change the tense. You can't use present perfect tense with exact expression of time. The present perfect tense matches not with the time (when?) but with the action. In eleventh line, "he could not ~~has~~ "good marks," you have to change the verb tense. Come, if you use an auxiliary verb with main verb, you have to be sure of the infinitive of verb. So, "has" should be changed to "have". In the thirteenth line, you miss the preposition, "after I graduated from school," is correct. Also, in that sentence, change the order of operations like "I could go to go to this course".

unclassified →
number 4.

5. Narration uses primarily time order or chronology to explain the sequence of events. Has the writer selected the appropriate events to discuss in chronological order? Does the paragraph have a topic sentence to guide the selection of material to be discussed? Has the writer employed a variety of transitional devices throughout the paragraph, including transitions of time as well as transitional phrases to help guide the reader through the paragraph? What sorts of transitions are being used?

You use some transitional words; one day before, after, suddenly, at that time, in November 1999, on the other hand, However, nowadays... transitions appropriately, but they are not various enough. You use "after" for three times.

I recommend you use other expressions like "since, then, after that..." or create new phrases that fit in the line of thought, context.

I would ask you to reorder the sentences. They're rather messy. Describe the scene and guide you the books, and explain the situation in your high school. Then, tell your dream more, because the subject is "Dream", not an after dream.

6. Write your strategies for revision here for the writer.

This job is well-done, but this paragraph lacks description of situation, people and feelings. Good paragraph stimulates reader's imagination. That means the writer employ many devices which can make people devote themselves to your story. Of course, the devices must be fresh and original. Nobody has interests in cliché. As the best seller's book, they play a magic with words. You, being not a professional writers, but I think we should try to create more interesting and beautiful words.

And - this is really important - please, more about "grammar". You made a lot of mistakes. Grammar is primary thing in writing. Ungrammatical paragraph is founded in lack of writing or lack of writing; more in Academic writing. So, after you write the first draft, then proofread for grammar first. It will help you to avoid grammatical mistakes or errors.

Paragraph Strengths

This is better than before.
Your expressions are developed.
And relatively, there exists chronological order comparing with your descriptive paragraph.
In addition, I can see your efforts to make more vivid and live description of your feeling.

Paragraph Weaknesses

1. Grammatical Problems

- tense - improper use of Present Perfect tense.
- improper verb form - used with auxiliary verb
- many many comma splices
- after preposition phrases, conjunction
- prepositional mistakes
- article error - before countable noun
- misorder the prepositions

2. Stylistic Problem -

more natural than usual. (lots)

"see" is more natural in English. "see" is more natural than his expression which I had seen from his face. It's unnecessary repetition, so repeat the this, "see" I had seen repeat the this, "see" and some words.

some words for English sentence attractive.

25

About the style problems...

In the 1st line, "the nomination to qualify for college entrance," is possibly changed to "the entrance examination for University," or "the university entrance exam." In the 6th line, "put forth" seems quite awkward, it can be "suggested" - it's much better. And the 11th line, "No sooner" phrase is quite awkward, but I don't understand what "this" is. It's a little bit vague. "This" is better than "you".