READING AND WRITING ASSESSMENT

Organizing clear paragraphs

Your written response is scored on clarity, organization, and correct grammar. A well-organized paragraph lets the reader follow your thinking from the first sentence to the last.

One paragraph, one point

Each paragraph should make one main point. When you move to a new point, start a new paragraph.

The parts of a clear paragraph

Topic sentence	States the paragraph's main point.
Support	Gives a reason, an example, or evidence.
Explanation	Shows how the support proves the main point.
Closing sentence	Completes the point or leads to the next one.

Example

TOPIC SENTENCE
Careful reading depends on patience.

SUPPORT
The author notes that a second reading often reveals a qualifying phrase or a change in tone that the first reading missed.

EXPLANATION
Because such details can change the meaning of a whole passage, a reader who stops after one reading may misunderstand the author's point.

CLOSING SENTENCE
Patience, then, is not a delay in understanding but the way to reach it.

Transitions that connect your sentences

To add a point	also, in addition, furthermore
To give a reason	because, since, for this reason
To show a result	therefore, as a result, consequently
To show contrast	however, yet, on the other hand
To give an example	for example, for instance
To conclude	in short, finally, then

Common problems and how to fix them

Problem	Fix
Two main points in one paragraph	Split it into two paragraphs, one point each.
No topic sentence	Add a first sentence that states the point.
Support with no explanation	Add a sentence that shows how the support proves the point.
The same idea repeated	Cut the repeated sentence, or replace it with new support.

Before you submit

- [ ] Each paragraph makes one main point.
- [ ] Each paragraph opens with a topic sentence.
- [ ] Every piece of support is explained.
- [ ] Transitions connect my sentences and paragraphs.