



6 Traits Cloze Notes

By [The Teacher Lady](#)

An interactive guide for each trait!

Ideas & Content
Word Choice
Organization
Sentence Fluency
Voice
Conventions

Ideas & Content



What do I need to know about Ideas & Content?

F - Make sure your writing is _____ on your main idea or thesis.

I - Make your writing _____ by including unique ideas.

D - Include _____ that will make the topic “real” to the audience.

O - Make your writing _____ by including ideas that are unique to you!

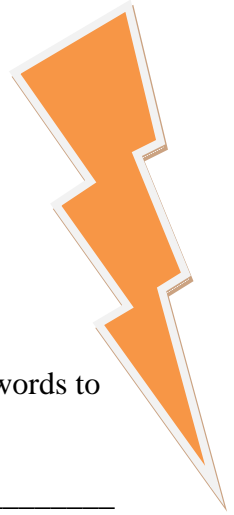
Based on what you just learned, which paragraph has better Ideas & Content?

Paragraph A	Paragraph B
I have this fear. It haunts my dreams and causes my skin to crawl. It makes me squeal like a 5-year-old girl, not the tough teenage guy I am. I’ve tried to ignore it, but it still creeps back to me, no matter how I try to repress it. It’s not a fear of heights, pain, or even public speaking. Instead, the nature of my fear is so embarrassing, I can hardly admit to it; I’m deathly afraid of spiders!	A thing that I am scared of is spiders. They scare my sister, too. One time, we found a black widow inside my bedroom closet. Another thing I am afraid of is snakes. Every time I am around them, I think they are going to attack me. Mr. Smith has a snake and I am afraid to go in his classroom. I also don’t like scorpions. You can find scorpions at night with a black light. They glow in the dark. Those are my biggest fears.

Write down 3 reasons or pieces of evidence to support your answer!

Revise the less strong paragraph to have better Ideas & Content. Use FIDO as a guide.

Word Choice



What do I need to know about Word Choice?

P _____ – Use the _____ word, not almost the right word.

I _____ – Show the reader what you mean by using _____ words to _____ your subject.

V _____ – Use a _____ of different words; don't _____ words too often.

F _____ **L** _____ – Use _____, metaphors, _____, and hyperbole when appropriate.

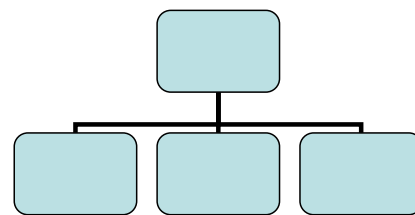
Based on what you just learned, which paragraph has better word choice?

Paragraph A	Paragraph B
“That summer, we went to a lake. On the lake, lots of people liked to go on boats or jet skis, which made a lot of noise. We stayed at the lake for 5 days; we went on the boat, hiked, and had campfires. At the end of our trip, I smelled because I had not showered in 5 days.”	“Imagine a pristine wilderness, bursting with impossibly tall trees of every variety. Their delicate branches arch together to create a lush canopy like a row of ballerinas stretching towards each other before a recital. Beneath this green ceiling lies a vast carpet of grass. This is where my family camped last summer.”

Give 3 reasons or pieces of evidence to support your opinion!

Revise the less strong paragraph to improve its Word Choice, using PIVFL as a guide!

Organization



What do I need to know about Organization?

P _____ – Make sure your piece of writing has all the _____ it should. For example, if you’re writing an essay, it should have an introduction, 3 body paragraphs, and a conclusion.

H _____ – Make sure to get the reader _____ right away by using a lead to “_____” him or her.

O _____ – Make sure you’ve put your paragraphs in an _____ that makes sense.

T _____ – Use transition words to _____ smoothly from one idea to the next.

Ways to “hook” your reader:

1. Tell an _____ or short story that goes with the topic you’ll be writing about.
2. Use a _____ or metaphor to compare your topic to something more familiar to the reader. (My future is an unpaved road stretching before me.)
3. Use a startling _____.
4. Use and explain a thoughtful _____.
5. Have your reader put him or herself in the _____ or situation. (For example, “Imagine coming home after school and finding your house burned to the ground. That is what deforestation is like to thousands of species of animals worldwide.”)
6. Start in the _____ of the story. (Crash! My bike slammed into the car and my limp body flew through the air.)
7. Ask your reader a thought-provoking _____.

Common transitions:

First	Because
Next	Since
Then	Before
Finally	Consequently
In conclusion	Therefore
Primarily	Secondly
Most importantly	After

(ORGANIZATION NOTES CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE)

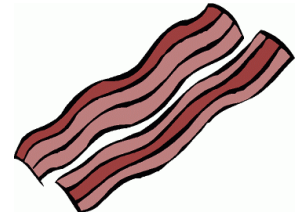
Based on what you just learned, which paragraph has better Organization?

Paragraph A	Paragraph B
<p>Make a peanut butter sandwich in a couple of steps. Take peanut butter and put it on bread. Take some jelly and put it on another piece of bread. Put the two pieces of bread together. Cut it in half if you want. Clean up your mess. Eat it. Yum!</p>	<p>Imagine making your very own fruit smoothie, like you'd buy at the mall. It's easy if you follow a few simple steps. First, choose the fruit, juice, and flavor of yogurt that you want. Next, scoop the yogurt and fruit into a blender. Add a few ice cubes for an added crunch. After you've put all the ingredients in the blender, turn the blender on high for about 30 seconds. Finally, pour the delicious concoction into a glass and enjoy!</p>

Give 3 reasons or pieces of evidence to support your opinion!

Revise the weaker paragraph to have better organization, using PHOT as a guide!

Sentence Fluency



What do I need to know about Sentence Fluency?

It's all about using variety in the BLT of your sentences.

Beginning – Start sentences _____. Don't start every sentence with "I," "The," "A," etc.

Length – Use some short, some _____, and some long sentences.

Type – Use simple, _____ and _____ sentences.

When do you think you'd use each length of sentence?

* Fragment – "Crash!"

* Short – "I stayed miserable for two days."

* Medium – Dill's new father had a pleasant face, which made me glad Dill had captured him, but I was crushed.

* Long – The fact that I had a permanent fiancé was little compensation for his absence: I had never thought about it, but summer was Dill by the fishpool, Dill's eyes alive with complicated plans to make Boo Radley emerge; summer was the swiftness with which Dill would reach up and kiss me when Jem was not looking, the way we sometimes felt each other feel.

Types of sentences:

S_____ – Contains one independent clause. (John and Sarah went to the beach.)

C_____ – Contains two independent clauses, glued to each other with a comma and a conjunction. (John and Sarah went to the beach, **and** they flew kites over the water.)

C_____ – Contains one independent clause and one subordinate clause. (While John and Sarah were at the beach, they flew kites over the water.)

SENTENCE FLUENCY NOTES CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE

Based on what you just learned, which paragraph has better Sentence Fluency?

Paragraph A	Paragraph B
<p>“Ahh!” I screamed, as I fell headlong from the sky. Where am I? Looking left and right, I noticed an incredibly tall stone structure looming in the distance. It looked like pictures I had seen in my History textbook of the Egyptian pyramids. Incredible! Could it be? While I contemplated what had happened, I looked at my watch. It was spinning backwards, and that is when I knew I was in big trouble! I had traveled back in time to the days of the Egyptian Empire!</p>	<p>“Ahh!” I screamed. “Where am I?” I said. “Why are all these soldiers here?”</p> <p>The last thing I remember, I fell asleep and now I am in Great Britain. This doesn’t make sense. I fell asleep in Arizona. I went back in time to the 1940s. Maybe while I am here, I can tell Great Britain’s prime minister how to fight the World War II. There is the prime minister. I am going to talk to him. Maybe he will take my advice.</p>

Give 3 reasons or pieces of evidence to support your opinion!

Revise the weaker paragraph to have better organization, using BLT as a guide!

Voice



What do I need to know about Voice?

P _____ – Show your _____ by using personal details, jokes, and favorites.

E _____ – Show that you're _____ to the topic by using words that convey your emotions!

A _____ – Always keep your _____ in mind and use details, examples, and words suited to that person.

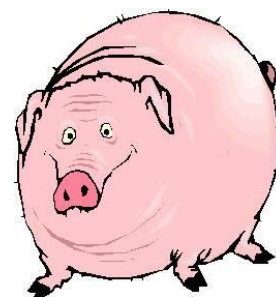
Based on what you just learned, which paragraph has better Voice?

Paragraph A	Paragraph B
Last weekend, my parents took my sister and I to the zoo. I saw flamingos, elephants, giraffes, and zebras. My sister tried to feed the giraffe and was really grossed out because it had a really slimy black tongue. I laughed at her. We also ate snacks at the zoo, such as cotton candy and ice cream cones. It was a really fun day	January 21, 2011 -- the best day of my life! Why? It started out like any other day: bus, school, lunch, Specials, home. However, after school was finished, I went to my best friend's birthday party! At the party, we ate chocolate cake (my favorite!) and drank enough soda to drown an elephant. After gorging ourselves, my friends and I flopped on the couch to watch the divine Josh Hutcherson <i>The Hunger Games</i> . What a night!

Give 3 reasons or pieces of evidence to support your opinion!

Revise the weaker passage, using PEA as a guide!

Conventions



P _____ – Make sure you've used end punctuation (.!?), quotation marks, commas and other _____ marks correctly.

I _____ – Check that you've _____ at the beginning of each paragraph and before any dialogue.

G _____ – Check that you have not made _____ errors.

S _____ – Use a _____ or spell check to make sure that you have spelled everything correctly.

Based on what you just learned, which paragraph has better Conventions?

Paragraph A	Paragraph B
<p>An overwhelming 78% of students at our school believe that cell phones should be permitted in class at our school. I agree with these students because cell phones could have academic, safety, and social benefits for our entire student body.</p> <p>First of all, cell phones – and smart phones in particular – could have great educational benefits. For example, imagine a student is conducting research on a certain constellation. There's an app for that!</p>	<p>Imagine a society in which everyone look's the same? How, boaring would that be. I donut think that we should have uniforms at school because it would inhibit student's freedom of expression some students couldn't afford them and would make our school a boring place to be. First, school uniforms wuld inhibit students' freedom of expression. Student's need to be able to show who they are as individuals?</p>

Give 3 reasons or pieces of evidence to support your opinion!

Edit the weaker paragraph, using PIGS as a guide!

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Thanks! -- *Katrina*, **The Teacher Lady**