Paragraph Coherence: Sentence Variety

1. Go to http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/573/01/ and read about sentence variety. Please read all five sections on sentence variety (see list at the bottom of the page). On a separate sheet, answer the following questions after you read:

   (1) Why should writers vary their sentences?
   (2) What are two ways to add variety to sentences?
   (3) What are the four sentence types? Write the definition and provide one example of each.
   (4) What are the six conjunctions you can use to combine sentences?
   (5) Handling the same topic for several sentences can lead to what?
   (6) What are three ways to handle covering several topics for several sentences?
   (7) List five transition words that can help you vary the rhythm of a sentence.

2. Now is a good time to STOP and visit an instructor or a tutor to review your answers. Write any additional questions below before you go.

Once you are ready to continue, go on to #3.

3. The sentences in the following two paragraphs are choppy and stilted. They lack rhythm and can be boring to readers. Using the techniques discussed in the Web reading, combine sentences in the two paragraphs so that they flow smoothly and have rhythm. Rewrite the paragraphs on a separate sheet, and add or delete words as necessary to make the language smooth.

Paragraph #1

Robert Jones started a business. He started it in 1985. He specialized in making compost bins. His designs were unique. He copyrighted them. Another businessman copied his design. Robert sued. He won.

Paragraph #2

Janet walked in her garden. She saw the tomato plants. They looked dry. She looked at the herbs. They were dry, too. She also looked at the squash plants. They were turning
brown. Janet realized she needed to water the garden. Janet got the hose. She watered the plants.

4. Before reviewing your answers with an instructor or tutor, use the space below to write any questions you still have about paragraphing:


5. Review your answers with an instructor or tutor in the WRC. Have that person sign and date this sheet.

Instructor/Tutor signature

Date

6. Return this completed, signed sheet to your instructor.