

PARAGRAPH REVIEW WS - 1

Name _____

Date _____ Period _____

Read the paragraphs below and do the following:

- A. Underline the topic sentence. Circle the topic.
- B. Cross out any sentence that doesn't belong in the paragraph.
- C. Put a box around or highlight the transitional words and phrases.
- D. Name the order of organization used. (*chronological, spatial, emphatic, cause and effect, compare/contrast*)

EXAMPLE: The hummingbird is very much like a helicopter. It can fly up or it can fly down. It can fly forward or backward. It can even hover in one place. Moreover, just as the rotors of the helicopter spin very fast, the wings of a hummingbird flap over eighty times in one second. ~~Hummingbirds can barely walk.~~

Order of organization: compare/contrast

1.) Morse Code is an international code for transmitting messages by wire or radio using signals of short and long duration. Short signals are called dots and long signals are called dashes. The code was originated by Samuel Morse for use on his telegraph. The letters SOS (three short signals, three long signals, three short signals) are an international distress signal. By radio telephone the distress call is "Mayday."

Order of organization: _____

2.) Birthdays are important events at my house. Halloween is fun too. Everyone in the family joins in wishing the birthday person the best. First of all we have a huge dinner with special food, and the birthday person gets to use the red birthday plate. After that there's also a cake and candles and singing, followed by presents - one for each year. But the best part is the feeling of being a family and knowing that you are surrounded by love.

Order of organization: _____

3.) My little brother drives me crazy. He has red hair and blue eyes. If I have a friend over, he wants to play with us. When I need to do homework, he races through the house like a fire engine. Furthermore, when my family goes for a ride in the car, he has to sit by the window. Even talking on the phone when he's around is a challenge. He always wants to say "hello." When I complain, Mom and Dad take his side-- "After all, he's only four years old!" I can't wait until he's five!

Order of organization: _____

4.) Where do you sleep? Animals sleep in many different places. Horses and giraffes sleep standing up. Bats sleep upside down. Fish and snakes sleep with their eyes open. Some birds use special muscles to lock their claws to the branches so that they can perch on the branch without falling as they sleep. Cats sleep as much as twenty hours a day. Hippos sleep in a big heap. I sleep in a comfortable, soft, cozy, warm bed and I'm glad that I do!

Order of organization: _____

5.) In school, I didn't always feel accepted by my classmates because I was deaf. When I was in first grade, for example, Timothy Julius, the boy who sat next to me, used to stick his fingers in his ears whenever he talked to me. The teacher spoke with him about it several times, but he would still tease me whenever the teacher wasn't looking. When Timothy was a sophomore in high school, he was arrested for breaking into a warehouse. Now he is studying to be a minister. In addition, other kids in class would stare at my hearing aids. Worst of all, some of them would talk to me in simple words as if I were stupid.

Order of organization: _____

6.) Last summer, I had a great experience working as a soccer coach for the day camp at a local boys and girls club. I was in charge of the indoor soccer games for the youngest group of campers, ages five to seven. Soccer is the world's most popular sport. In many countries, soccer is called football. So far, professional soccer hasn't been especially successful in the United States. During the first week of camp, I assigned the fifty kids to different teams and had practice games. They didn't really understand how to play the game, so I spent the first two weeks teaching them basic things like passing and playing defense. Then, for the rest of the summer, I was able to watch them as they improved and learned to love soccer. At the end of the summer, all the players gave me a plaque naming me "Most Valuable Coach." I never would have guessed that a simple summer job could have been so rewarding.

Order of organization: _____

7.) The number of people who read a daily newspaper is declining for several reasons. For one thing, people don't have time. Many people say they can't spare twenty minutes in their hectic days to sit down and read a paper. They get the information they need by listening. Either they tune into the news on their car radios as they drive to work, or they catch the highlights on TV as they get ready for bed at night. Moreover, many people get their news over the Internet. By adding a lot of color, *USA Today* has influenced the way newspapers look. Also, some people prefer to watch news shows rather than read about news. Finally, newspapers are printed only once a day, and the news in them may be a day or more old. Television and the Internet can update the news any time during the day and can bring events as they are happening to our living rooms. I usually watch CNN.

Order of organization: _____

8.) Last week I saw an accident that showed me how important it is to wear a helmet when riding a bike. I had just walked out of the cleaners when a young man without a helmet passed in front of the store on his mountain bike. I always have my dry cleaning done at this shop. It has the best prices, and a kid I went to grammar school with works there. The bicyclist looked back over his shoulder and didn't notice that the car in front of him had stopped. It was a Saturn, my favorite kind of car. He slammed into the back of the car, flipped across the trunk, and landed on his back in the middle of the street. When I reached him, he was unconscious and bleeding heavily from a gash on the back of his head. He was still unconscious when the ambulance finally arrived ten minutes later.

Order of organization: _____