Unity

- A good paragraph has *unity*, which means it is "as one". The paragraph has one main idea.

- The topic sentence gives the idea of the paragraph.

- All of the other sentences must relate to that idea.

Unity

- For example, if your topic sentence is, "The Toyota Prius is inexpensive to drive"
    - Write about why the Prius is inexpensive to drive
    - Write about how much it costs to drive
    - DO NOT write that the Prius is expensive to buy
    - DO NOT write that the Prius is popular
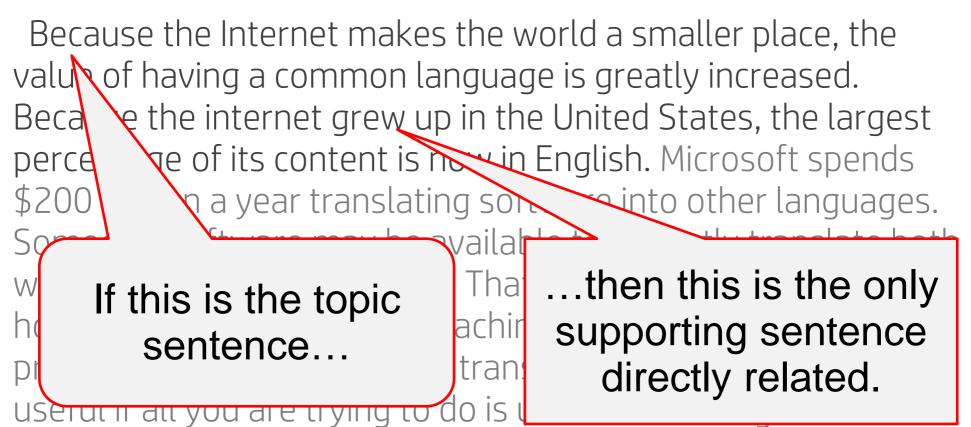   - DO NOT write that the Honda Element is also inexpensive to drive

Unity

- You must start with a focused topic sentence.

- While planning and organizing, chose only ideas that are related to the topic sentence.

- When reading and revising, remove any sentences that are not related to the topic.

Example

Daredevil sports are becoming popular. Young people especially are increasingly willing to risk their lives while mountain climbing, back-country snowboarding, or high-speed skateboarding. Soccer is also becoming more popular. One of the riskiest new sports is skysurfing, in which people jump out of airplanes with boards attached to their feet. Skysurfing rivals skydiving and bungee jumping for the amount of thrill and risk.

Example

Daredevil sp[...] [...] people especiall[...] [...] lives while mountain climb[...] [...]ck-country snowboarding, or high-speed skateboarding. Soccer is also becoming more popular. One of the riskiest new sports is skysurfing, in which people jump out of airplanes with boards attached to their feet. Skysurfing rivals skydiving and bungee jumping fop the amount of thrill and risk.

This sentence is not about "daredevil sports". Remove it.

Unity

- A paragraph should have *only one* topic.

- If you write about more than one topic, you should write more than one paragraph.

  - (Note: In the papers you write for this class, you should only write one paragraph. If you want to write more, that's great – but don't include more than one paragraph in your "clean copy". Just hand in your best one.)

Example

Because the Internet makes the world a smaller place, the value of having a common language is greatly increased. Because the internet grew up in the United States, the largest percentage of its content is now in English. Microsoft spends $200 million a year translating software into other languages. Someday, software may be available to instantly translate both written and spoken language. That day is decades away, however, because flawless machine translation is a very tough problem. Software that does translations already exists. It is useful if all you are trying to do is understand the general idea of something you see on the Internet. However, if you are trying to negotiate a contract or discuss a scientific subject, machine translation is useless.

Example

Because the Internet makes the world a smaller place, the value of having a common language is greatly increased. Because the internet grew up in the United States, the largest percentage of its content is now in English. Microsoft spends $200 million a year translating software into other languages. Some software may be available to currently translate both w... That how... machine pr... trans... useful if all you are trying to do is u... of something you see on the Internet. However, if you are trying to negotiate a contract or discuss a scientific subject, machine translation is useless.

If this is the topic sentence…

…then this is the only supporting sentence directly related.

Example

There is much more information about translation software, but that doesn't fit the topic sentence.
Go back to the thinking stage. Either support this topic sentence or write a new one.

v...
B... st
p... s
$2...ges.
Someday, software may be available to instantly translate both written and spoken language. That day is decades away, however, because flawless machine translation is a very tough problem. Software that does translations already exists. It is useful if all you are trying to do is understand the general idea of something you see on the Internet. However, if you are trying to negotiate a contract or discuss a scientific subject, machine translation is useless.

Rewritten example (1)

Because the Internet makes the world a smaller place, English is even more valuable as a common language. Because the Internet grew up in the United States, the largest percentage of its content is now in English. English is the most commonly used second language in the world. People who are not native speakers use English on the Internet. We can communicate with many different people all over the world using English.

Rewritten example (2)

We can't completely rely on translation software today. Someday, software may be available to instantly translate both written and spoken language. Today, however, machine translation is limited. Software that does translations is useful if all you are trying to do is understand the general idea of something you see on the Internet. However, if you are trying to negotiate a contract or discuss a scientific subject, machine translation is useless.

Remember:

- A paragraph is a set of sentences that all explain *one idea*.

- The topic sentence gives that idea.

- All of the other sentences must directly relate to the topic sentence.

- When thinking about what to write, think about the topic

- If you write sentences that are not related to the topic sentence, remove them.