

WS1.2 Organization and Focus: multiple-paragraph expository essays

- 1) establish a topic, important ideas, or events in sequence or chronological order
- 2) provide details and transitions that link paragraphs together
- 3) offer a concluding paragraph that summarizes important ideas

(6 questions on CST)

All essays, whether simple or complex, must abide by the following organizational structure in order to be effective:

<u>Topic/Introduction</u>	How to Build a Shed
<p>The topic sentence will tell the reader what the essay is mostly about (main idea). Every essay has a topic, and every paragraph in the essay has its own topic.</p>	<p>Building your own shed can be an inexpensive and simple way to make space in your home. Many peoples' garages are so full of stuff that they can't even park their car inside. However, if you follow a few simple steps you can build your own shed which will add character to your yard and free up space in your home.</p>
<p><u>Body</u> Provides details which support the topic. Paragraphs must link together with transitions. 20 common transitions are:</p>	<p>The first step is to build a sturdy and level foundation. Foundations can be built out of wood or concrete. The most important things about a foundation are that it must be strong and it must be perfectly square. It must be strong enough to hold all the weight of the shed. Building it perfectly square will ensure that the walls and ceiling will line up properly.</p>
<p>first, second, third, however, therefore, also, in addition, before long, later, soon, then, meanwhile, next, after, afterwards, on the other hand, hence, in conclusion, finally, lastly</p>	<p>The next step is to construct the walls. The walls are built on the foundation and they are usually made out of lumber materials. The outside of the walls is covered with either plywood or sheetmetal. If you want to be creative, you can make the walls look like a barn, a clubhouse, or even a western style building.</p> <p>Finally, you need to construct the roof. The roof is made out of layers of materials. The first layer is made out of plywood. Special roofing paper is carefully stapled on top of the plywood. The shingles, which will make the roof of the shed waterproof, are nailed on top of the roofing paper.</p>
<p><u>Conclusion/Summary</u> Must summarize/restate the main points of the essay. Remind the readers what the essay was mostly about.</p>	<p>Now that the shed is complete, you can take all of the junk that is crowding the garage and put it in the shed. All you have to do is build a foundation, construct walls, and a roof in order to have a long lasting place to safely store your extra possessions.</p>

Test questions will ask the following of you:

- "If a student adds a concluding paragraph at the end of the report, it should . . ."
- "Which transitional word is *best* used at the beginning of the sentence . . ."
- "Which sentence in the conclusion summarizes the ideas in paragraph . . ."
- "Which sentence is the topic sentence for the report?"
- "Which sentence should be added as the last sentence of the first paragraph to state the topic of the report?"
- "Which of these sentences should be added at the beginning of the fourth paragraph?"
- "Which sentence could *best* be added to improve the transition between the second and third paragraphs?"
- "Which sentence could *best* be added to the last paragraph to summarize the report?"
- "Which sentence should the student add to the end of the report?"
- "Which sentence could *best* be added to conclude the journal entry?"



- 1 Which sentence is the topic sentence for the report?
- (A) Building your own shed can be an inexpensive and simple way to make space in your home.
 - (B) Foundations can be built out of wood or concrete.
 - (C) Many peoples' garages are so full of stuff that they can't even park a car inside.
 - (D) The roof is made out of layers of materials.

- 2 Which transitional phrase was used to connect the first and second paragraphs?
- (A) However, if you follow a few simple steps...
 - (B) The most important things...
 - (C) The first step is to...
 - (D) Building your own shed can be...

- 3 Which sentence is the topic sentence for the third paragraph?
- (A) The outside of the walls is covered with either plywood or sheetmetal.
 - (B) The walls are built on the foundation, and they are usually built out of lumber materials.
 - (C) It must be strong enough to hold the weight of the shed.
 - (D) Special roofing paper is carefully stapled on top of the plywood.

- 4 Which transitional phrase was used to connect the second and third paragraphs?
- (A) The first step...
 - (B) If you want to be creative...
 - (C) The walls are built...
 - (D) The next step...



5 Which transitional word is used to connect third and fourth paragraphs?

- Ⓐ First
- Ⓑ Next
- Ⓒ Finally
- Ⓓ Now

6 The purpose of the concluding paragraph at the end of the report is to

- Ⓐ mention other interesting details about building sheds.
- Ⓑ summarize the main points for the report.
- Ⓒ explain how the walls of a shed are supposed to be built.
- Ⓓ list the sources used to write the report.

7 Which sentence should the student add to the end of the report?

- Ⓐ After all your work is complete you'll be happy that now you finally have room to park your car in the garage.
- Ⓑ Sheds that are designed like blacksmith shops will make your yard look great.
- Ⓒ The most fun part about building a shed is nailing the shingles on the roof.
- Ⓓ The problem with building sheds is that they cost a lot of money and take a lot of time.



1	A
2	C
3	B
4	D
5	C
6	B
7	A

SAMPLE