



Editing for Cohesion

In cohesive writing, the ideas of sentences and paragraphs are connected together at the sentence level in a way that supports the controlling idea of a text. The word “cohesive” comes from a Latin word that means “cleave together.” Cohesion in writing is achieved by the use of different kinds of cohesive devices (also called cohesive ties):

- Pronouns referring back to a previously mentioned noun
- Substituting a synonym for a previously mentioned noun.
- Using transition words and connectors like therefore or because

DIRECTIONS: Read your draft. Use a highlighter to mark each of the following:

1. Mark where pronouns refer back to previously mentioned nouns
2. Mark where you have replaced (or could replace) previously mentioned nouns with synonyms
3. Mark where you have used transition words and connectors

Are there places in your draft where you could revise to include a cohesive device which would strengthen the overall cohesion of your paper?
