Revising Paragraphs (Sample Answers)

1. Read through this sample paragraph before we revise it.

   As Melanie Pinola notes, "everyone knows how to 'Google,' but not everyone Googles efficiently" (2014). For example, to find useful information through Google, students need to employ its many useful filtering features. Technological literacy includes deep working knowledge of the tools we use to navigate and search the internet.

   This paragraph is difficult to read. It begins with a quotation instead of the writer's own voice. This indicates the lack of a topic sentence! As a result, we don't know what the purpose of the paragraph will be as we start reading.

   Locate the topic sentence and rewrite the paragraph below with it at the start.

Sample Answer:

Technological literacy includes deep working knowledge of the tools we use to navigate and search the internet. As Melanie Pinola notes, "everyone knows how to 'Google,' but not everyone Googles efficiently" (2014). For example, to find useful information through Google, students need to employ its many filtering features.

Explanation:

Now, as readers, we know that this paragraph will discuss one example of technological literacy – the ability to use tools for searching the internet effectively. We can expect that the rest of the paragraph will explain this idea. The quote from Pinola supports this ideas with the example of Google.

2. Look again at the paragraph, but this time consider how much information it contains. Does the paragraph provide enough information to develop the Google example as a difficult skill to learn?

   Technological literacy includes deep working knowledge of the tools we use to navigate and search the internet. As Melanie Pinola notes, "everyone knows how to 'Google,' but not everyone Googles efficiently" (2014). For example, to find useful information through Google, students need to employ its many filtering features.

   In the box below, consider what kind of information you might add to this paragraph to finish the idea. For example, you might consider what filtering features Google uses? And, perhaps ideas for how students could learn to use these filtering features?

Sample Answer:

Technological literacy includes deep working knowledge of the tools we use to navigate the internet. As Melanie Pinola notes, "Everyone knows how to 'Google,' but not everyone Googles efficiently" (2014). For example, to find useful information through Google, students need to employ its many useful filtering features. Google can seem almost magical, linking us to millions of sources; however, we do not need millions of random sources, we need one or two quality sources. Learning to use filtering features like Google scholar, and important search codes, such as site: and filetype: are necessary to make Google useful for university students (Pinola). Students can make use of tutorial on Google research techniques, such as the one offered by Lifehacker.com to improve their technological literacy.

Explanation:

The additional information uses the Google example to illustrate how difficult and yet essential it is to learn good search techniques such as filtering as an example of gaining technological literacy.

3. Finally, look again at this paragraph and identify the use of transition language. Transition language is the small linking words that help the reader understand the connections and relationships between ideas. Without it, the paragraph would be difficult to follow. It also includes attribution language that helps us know whose ideas we are reading.

Identify all the transition words, attribution words, and repetitions that help guide the reader through the paragraph:

> *Technological literacy includes deep working knowledge of the tools we use to navigate the internet. As Melanie Pinola notes, "Everyone knows how to 'Google,' but not everyone Googles efficiently" (2014). For example, to find useful information through Google, students need to employ its many useful filtering features. Google can seem almost magical, linking us to millions of sources; however, we do not need millions of random sources, we need one or two quality sources. Therefore, learning to use filtering features like Google scholar, and important search codes, such as site: and filetype: are necessary to make Google useful for university students (Pinola). Students can make use of tutorials on Google research techniques – for example, the one offered by Lifehacker.com -- to improve their technological literacy.*

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