

Education



Education Is Power

By THOMAS E. WILSON, PH.D.

People are often ineffective readers because they fail to see the plan behind the writing. Instead, they think in terms of separate phrases and sentences. Failing to see the pattern of organization underlying the reading material, poor readers see only an endless parade of sentences of seeming equal importance. Without guidance from the organizational structure of the material, the reader cannot distinguish the important ideas from the mass of details. Thus, when the poor reader finishes a selection, he is left with the confused feeling that there was much that he lost in the jumble of sentences. In contrast, the effective reader knows that a knowledge of the organizational structure of a selection can help him

to understand his reading better, to read more purposefully, to learn efficiently, and to remember ideas and details.

An important technique to use in discerning organizational pattern is overviewing.

Another important technique in organizing reading involves the ability to grasp main ideas quickly from paragraphs. Every reading selection is composed of paragraphs, and each paragraph, with the occasional exception of certain structural units, presents an idea. Paragraphs, therefore, may be considered as units of thought. Quickly discerning the main point of each paragraph will enable one to read rapidly and still get the important ideas of the article.

In much of his reading, the reader does not

Cannon Jr. High To Receive National Recognition Award

"Together We Can Do It Better," is the motto at Helen C. Cannon Jr. High School, and on Oct. 22 at 7 p.m. Principal Louis Silvestri and his staff and students will be presented with the Secondary School Recognition Award, making this motto a reality.

This award will be presented by Nancy L. Harris, a representative of Education Secretary Bell's office, at the annual open house.

really need the details — the main points suffice. yet, too often, people do not even notice the paragraph structure while reading. These ineffective readers fail to see the paragraph as a package of meaning containing an idea of main importance. The rest of the paragraph expands, illustrates, supports, or qualifies that idea.

The main idea of a paragraph is most generally given in an explicit statement. This statement, called the topic sentence, appears first or last in about 90% of all paragraphs.

Position is not a fool-proof guide for finding the main thought of a paragraph. While the main idea is usually stated in one general sentence, it may be expressed in two or more sentences or not explicitly stated at all.

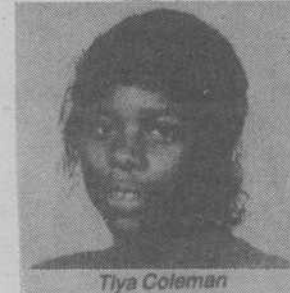
One cannot mechanically choose a paragraph's main idea by position alone. Instead, think of each paragraph as a package of meaning. The main part of the paragraph is what the paragraph is about. Determine this by asking yourself: What is the main subject, thing, person, or place dealt with; and what happens or is done?

Develop the technique of paragraph reading so that the paragraph is seen as a unit of meaning. Then automatically look for the main idea of each paragraph in order

Cannon Junior High was among 88 junior high schools to receive this award throughout the United States. Governor Richard Bryan; Congressman Harry Reid; Robert Maxson, UNLV president; Bob Wentz, school district superintendent; Ted Sanders, state superintendent; Lucille Lusk, school board member; and Helen C. Cannon will be among the guests present at the open house.

Las Vegas wins award

The Southern Utah State College forensic squad captured more than a dozen awards in individual events and debate at the recent university fall scrimmage.



Tiya Coleman

The squad brought home three firsts, two seconds, three thirds and four finalist awards in individual speaking contests. In debate, two of the three teams reached elimination rounds to finish third and fifth in the tournament.

Tiya Coleman of Las Vegas finished first in poetry with Kristin Catherrall of American Fork, Utah, finishing third.

to distinguish this main idea from the details which support or explain it in some way. Understanding paragraph structure and the ability to grasp the main ideas contribute greatly to accuracy of comprehension. As one reads, he may better understand the material in terms of main ideas and supporting details — that is, he outlines the material mentally as he reads.

1984 National Achievement Project Announced By Omega Psi Phi Fraternity

As a phase of the Annual National Achievement Week Observance Nov. 10-18, the Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc. is announcing its Annual National High School Essay Contest as the 1984 National Achievement Project.

Subject for this year's Essay Contest is "The Importance of Black Political Action Now!"

Awards for the contest, which is open to all college-bound High School Seniors, will be four college scholarships: 1st Place Scholarship, \$1,500; 2nd Place Scholarship, \$1,000; 3rd Place Scholarship, \$500; and 4th Place Scholarship, \$250.

The contest closes on Nov. 18.

Contest Rules are as follows:

1. The essay must be entitled "The Importance of Black Political Action Now!"
2. The essay must be original, not previously published and not secured by copyright.
3. The essay must be between 700 and 750 words long.

TELECOURSE ON CONSTITUTION PREMIERES

The Constitution: That Delicate Balance, a telecourse funded by The Annenberg/CPB Project, premiered Sept. 18 on public television.

Thirteen one-hour programs examining public policy and the Constitution will air this fall. Hypothetical case studies on contemporary constitutional issues will be presented to a panel of politicians, judges, academics and journalists for discussion and debate.

Programs will cover topics ranging from "The President vs. Congress: Executive Privilege and Delegation of Power" to "Affirmative Action vs. Reverse Discrimination."

4. THREE TYPE-WRITTEN DOUBLE-SPACED COPIES must be submitted.

5. The name and address of the contestant as well as the Chapter Sponsor, and Location (City and State) must appear on the first page: Subject: _____

An Essay By: _____

Address: _____

High School: _____

Chapter Sponsor: _____

Location (City & State): _____

Contestant: Omega Psi Phi Fraternity National High School Essay Contest.

6. The manuscript must be post-marked not later than midnight, Nov. 18, 1984 and mailed to: W. Nelson Talbert, Chairman - Omega Psi Phi Essay Contest, 5409 Weatherford Drive, Los Angeles, CA 90008.

7. Persons submitting manuscripts thereby grant to the Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc. the right to keep the manuscripts and to exercise full publishing rights to them.

8. Awards will be announced on or about March 15, 1985 and the decisions of the judges will be final.

9. The manuscripts must present an adequate treatment of the essay topic.

10. Winners will be required to furnish written proof of enrollment in their respective high schools at the time the essays were submitted.

11. Awards will be submitted to the college to be applied to tuition upon notification that the winner has enrolled.

12. Awards must be claimed within 18 months after the announcement date to be valid.



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