

Paragraph Coherence

Directions: In each of the following paragraphs, underline the topic sentence. Next, circle words and phrases that help give the paragraph coherence.

Paragraph I

Since I have been working as a cashier at Wal-Mart, I have discovered there are several kinds of customers who drive me crazy. First are the openly rude ones. They frown and make loud, sarcastic remarks about how long the line is and how long they have been waiting. They throw their money on the counter and never say hello or acknowledge me as anything but human scum. I am embarrassed myself, but I am also embarrassed for them. Second are the silent but obviously impatient customers. Although they do not say anything, I have been aware of them since the time they got in line. They make faces, roll their eyes, and look at their watches every ten seconds. What do they expect? This is Wal-Mart; there are always lines. The third kind is really my least favorite: suspicious customers who watch my every move as if my goal in life is to overcharge them. They turn the monitor so they can see every price, but that is not enough. After looking at the price, they lean over the counter toward me and look at what price comes up on the register. Then their heads snap back to look at the monitor. They clearly do not trust me and are just waiting for me to make a mistake, at which point they will jump all over me. This kind of customer makes me nervous and a lot more likely to mess up. If you are one of these three kinds of customers, remember me the next time you are at Wal-Mart; I am the one just trying to do my job, and you are driving me crazy!

Paragraph II

People marry the wrong people for the wrong reasons. Of course, they seem to be the right people and the right reasons at the time the decision is made, but the trouble really begins here. For example, many couples are too young when they marry. They meet in high school or college, “fall in love,” which is really just lust, and know that they have found the person they are going to marry. Further, many young girls think that they are ready to marry, but many times they simply want to get out of their parents' house. The situation may involve abuse in some form or another, or the girl simply may not be getting along with her folks and sees marriage as a way out. She believes that if she can just make a home of her own everything will be fine. She looks on the young man as her salvation, and he begins to see himself in that role. In addition, she may also be pregnant. This situation always makes things worse for the young couple. The coming baby takes many choices away from the pair and adds many responsibilities that they are just not prepared to take on. For instance, there are financial burdens to be dealt with, such as hospital and doctor bills, as well as the burdens of trying to be parents when they themselves are little more than children. The frustration and the stress of all these burdens can be devastating to everyone concerned, which makes the situation all the more tragic.