

Are Ideas Enough?

Last time we discussed why ideas were important than grammar. We said that writing was partly about grammar but mainly about ideas: that is, a readable essay focused on ideas, not grammar. Today we will talk about “ideas” vs. “organized ideas.” Again, I will show you an example of a piece of writing and then my commentary.

Let’s start with the example, a first draft.

The advantages of tree

In your life ,you have gotten the advantages of tree in many ways.

When you plant a tree , you are helping your environment in several ways. Your tree will provide a home and foods for other creatures.Many people like to have their homes which made of woods,when we see a wood-house,it shows us beautiful,proud and strong.Oterwise some foods and drugs are made from wood or product of woods such as vetgetables,hurbs and fruits.Wood can be create furnitures and other buildings for example hut,bridge and paddle.Tree will hold the soil in place because of its roots spread deeply so that surface damaged and flood will not occur.After you plant,a tree will grow up. it is high and extend branches , it will provide shade in the summer that a good way for saving energy .You can watch it grow and someday show your children or even grandchildren the tree you planted.

conclusion everybody should be concern about the advantages and cooperate protection woods and replant instead.

This is what I see in the essay. The essay could be expanded into at least seven paragraphs: 1. introduction, 2. trees as houses, 3. trees as food, 4. trees as furniture, 5. trees to hold soil, 6. trees as shade trees, and 7. conclusion. My first suggestion to the writer was to have him/her re-write the essay by picking **only a couple of ideas** (from 2 to 6) and then expanding them in detail. By expansion I mean to have her give illustrations, for instance. Besides, I also suggested that s/he revise the conclusion.

She did revise the essay and post it again. Here it is:

The advantages of a tree

-In your life,you have been getting the advantages of a tree in many ways.

-When you plant a tree .Your tree will provide foods for humans and animals.Fruit may feed birds,bats and other small animals.The tree' s holds and branches are created the nests fobirds.Flowers will provide honey for bees and small insects.

-Your tree will provide furniture.Ever parts of it can be create to a chair,a table,a cabinet.etc.Also,some cloths are made from some parts of the tree ,for example leaves - skirt which ancient woman wore in the past.

-Your tree will hold the soil in place that will help stop floods and erosions.In addition , your tree will provide shade in the summer.

-So,it' s time for us to launch a campaign to protect and replant instead that you can watch it grow and someday it will show your children or evengrandchildren the tree you planted.

Obviously, this essay sounds better although she insists on putting every idea into his/her revised essay, instead of working on a couple of them. Which is fine with me; I never insisted that she take my whole suggestion.

So if she wanted to work on all of those ideas, I'd give her another suggestion. This is my new suggestion: "It seems to me that you have lots of things to talk about the advantages of trees—and you try to put everything into your essay instead of focusing on a couple of ideas and expanding them. If you want to do that, I'd "suggest" **you instead to re-organize your essay as follows: introduction (you need a new intro here, for the one you have is too short and hardly states what will follow), the advantages of trees toward human, how animals benefit from the trees, and conclusion.**"

Now my point: I think we can now agree on two points: ideas are far more important than grammar, and "organized ideas" help shape a readable essay.

Thanks Yindii.com's Forum and the writer for the essays.

w-bpf