

# ***DukeWrites* Enrichment Suite**

## **Essay structure, part one (1C)**

*With Margaret Swezey, Assistant Director of Writing Studio*

Paragraph Five: Soccer has emerged as one of Sierra Leone's most significant leisure activities following the civil war and in the wake of its physical, social, and political destruction. It has widely functioned as a means of rehabilitation and reintegration for amputees, especially children.

Soccer effectively functions as such because "it is one of the relatively few widely enjoyed but 'neutral' items of cultural common property ~ unspoiled by war ~ through which these alienated youngsters might begin to experiment with the direct reconstruction of their social identity.

Soccer's emphasis on cooperation and teamwork, as well as its general popularity throughout the African continent, render it an extremely effective outlet by which children permanently affected by the war can slowly reclaim their interests and identities ~ their autonomies of self ~ while participating in a process of reconciliation and looking forward.

This paragraph is about soccer, which of course is called football in many other countries. And the paragraph pulls together the themes of the essay ~ the civil war, leisure, amputation, and children.

Because of such things as "soccer's emphasis on cooperation and teamwork" ~ and its great popularity ~ it is an, where is this, an "extremely effective outlet by which children permanently affected by the war can slowly reclaim their interests and identities ~ their autonomies of self ~ while participating in a process of reconciliation and looking forward."

So that's where I see the main ideas of this paragraph all concentrated. And in terms of the notes here, I think, what I'm going to just say is: Soccer is an effective outlet for children ~ and again, I'm trying to be brief here ~ to recover from war.

Now, here is an overview of all the main ideas that we've talked about. And this list of these main ideas shows the overall structure of the paper with the main point of each paragraph listed next to the number of the paragraph.

Remember that this essay centers around a photograph of children who are enjoying playing soccer despite their amputated limbs. As you can see, the first paragraph provides essential background information about the civil war in Sierra Leone.

The main claim talks about the therapeutic value of leisure and how it can help ~ this is in the second paragraph ~ how it can help Sierra Leoneans recover from the war.

The third paragraph talks about amputation, a very obvious effect of the war. And then in paragraph four, it ~ that paragraph points out that children have, in some ways, a greater ability to refashion their identities and recover from traumatic effects like war.

The last paragraph pulls all these themes together, showing how playing soccer, which depends on cooperation and teamwork, can help restore a sense of social identity to these children. As a whole, this essay helps us to make sense of this photograph and provides a perspective that enriches our understanding of it.

Reverse outlining is a technique that has several different uses. For example, you can reverse outline a text that you're reading, like we did in this module, which allows you to follow the structure and logic of the essay. This is a useful note-taking method.

Reverse outlining something you're reading can make it easier for you to analyze or discuss later, for example in class discussion or in a paper that you're writing.

In addition, reverse outlining can also be a really useful revision strategy. So if you're revising your own paper, once you've got the draft you can go and do a reverse outline of it and that'll help you make sure the organization is logical and that the argument is developing in the way that you want it to.

To learn more about reverse outlining for revision, consult the Sakai site for some more resources.

Ok, and so now let's pause for you to take the quiz.