

Smarthinking's Tutor Response Form

(Your marked-up essay is below this form.)

HOW THIS WORKS: Your tutor has written overview comments about your essay in the form below. Your tutor has also embedded comments [in bold and in brackets] throughout your essay. Thank you for choosing Smarthinking's OWL; best wishes with revising your paper!

***Strengths of the essay:**

Hi, Polly! Thank you for sending your essay about Seaside City! My name is Henry T., and I am a writing tutor. You do a good job of focusing each body paragraph on one part of Seaside City. For instance, your second body paragraph focuses on the amusement pier. Focusing each body paragraph on a single topic makes it easier for readers to understand the parts that make up Seaside City.

***Polly 8765432 has requested that you respond to the Content Development:**

I noticed that your first two body paragraphs are missing examples of specific shops, games, and rides. Because of this, your readers do not get a clear image of what the boardwalk and the amusement pier are really like. They might not understand how Seaside City is different from other beach towns. For example, your second body paragraph mentions "rides" and "vendors," but it is unclear exactly which rides and games one might find there.

- The rides at the amusement pier are exciting and wild. They are thrilling as ever making, making my knuckles white as I hold on tighter the older I get. Vendors call out trying to get you to try their games to win stuffed animals.

To make your first two body paragraphs more detailed, you can add sentences that give the specific names of shops, games, and rides. What are the names of two or three of the most interesting boardwalk shops, Polly? What are the names of one or two rides that are especially exciting? You can use these questions to brainstorm details and to add those details to your body paragraphs. Here is an example of a passage from another paper that includes specific details.

- The shops at Silver Dollar City offer demonstrations of authentic, old-timey crafts and trades. For example, one of my favorite shops is Hillcreek Pottery, where professional potters throw clay onto a pottery wheel and shape it into bowls.

In this example, the general statement about shops is followed by a sentence that gives the name of a specific shop. Use these guidelines to add examples of specific attractions to your paragraphs about the boardwalk and the pier.

Introduction/Conclusion

I also see that your essay is missing a conclusion paragraph that summarizes the main topic of your essay and the reasons why you enjoy visiting Seaside City. Because of this, your readers might not remember the reasons why Seaside City is so special and how your four big ideas are connected. Your essay currently ends with a body paragraph about the beach. After the last body paragraph, readers need a conclusion paragraph that ties all of the ideas together. In order to give your essay more closure, you will need to add a conclusion paragraph to the end of your draft. You can write a conclusion by following these steps:

- First, write a sentence that summarizes your main, take-home message. What is your main opinion of Seaside City?
- Then, summarize the topics of your body paragraphs. What are the four main reasons why you find Seaside City so appealing?

- Finally, explain what this means for the future. How often do you hope to visit? How will Seaside City be a part of your future as well as your past?

Using these guidelines or a similar process, add a conclusion paragraph to the end of your essay.

***Polly 8765432 has requested that you respond to the Sentence Structure:**

There are several fragments in this draft that are missing a subject or a verb. When a sentence is missing a subject or a verb, Polly, your readers can become confused about who is doing the action or what is happening in the sentence. Here is one passage from your paper that includes a fragment:

- Later in the day the smells start to tease my nose, tricking my mind into thinking I am hungry. Mmmm, the smell of buttery popcorn, cheesy pizza, fresh roasted peanuts, soft pretzels, and hot dogs.

In this example, the second "sentence" is a fragment because it doesn't say who smells the food that you are describing. In order to find fragments like this one, you can read each sentence in your paper and look for sentences that are missing one or both of these things:

- A subject—the person, place, or thing that is doing the main action
- A verb—the main action that the subject is "doing."

When you find a fragment, one way to fix it is by adding the subject and/or verb that is missing. Here is an example of how to fix a fragment similar to yours:

- Fragment: The sounds of banjos, laughter, and train whistles.
- Revised: I hear the sounds of banjos, laughter, and train whistles.

In this example, I added "I hear" because the sentence is missing a subject and a verb. Using these guidelines and this example, find and fix the fragments throughout your draft. If you need more information about sentence fragments, our handbook has a really helpful chapter. Learn more about [Incomplete Sentences: Fragments](#) by clicking on this link.

Summary of Next Steps:

- Add examples of specific shops, rides, and games to your first two body paragraphs.
- Write a conclusion that summarizes your main idea and your four body paragraphs.
- Find and fix fragments throughout your paper.

Polly, thank you for sharing your paper about Seaside City with me. I wish you the best with your revisions and your future writing! ☺ - Henry T.

Find additional resources in Smarthinking's online library:

You can find more information about writing, grammar, and usage in Smarthinking's student handbooks. You can visit the [Smarthinking Writer's Handbook](#) or the [Smarthinking ESOL \(English for speakers of other languages\) Writer's Handbook](#).

Please look for more comments in your essay below. Thank you for visiting Smarthinking. We encourage you to submit future essays.

I love to vacation in Seaside City, Delaware. **[When have you vacationed here in the past, Polly? Adding some background information about your experience with this topic will help your readers to understand why this place is important to you.]** A vacation here offers a boardwalk with shops, an amusement pier, the ocean, and a beautiful beach. It is family oriented and clean. Seaside City is my favorite vacation spot because it gives me relaxation, fun and excitement all in one trip.

The boardwalk is a little over two miles long filled with motels, shops, eateries, and an amusement park at the end. I enjoy sitting on a bench watching the hustle of the shop keepers in the morning as they pull out their stock to sell and open up for a busy day ahead. Later in the day the smells start to tease my nose, tricking my mind into thinking I am hungry. Mmmm, the smell of buttery popcorn, cheesy pizza, fresh roasted peanuts, soft pretzels, and hot dogs. Watching the taffy being spun and turned like a giant glob of goo until it is perfect to be cut into mouthwatering treats. At night the boardwalk is crowded, but I find fun in that. Shoppers looking for bargains and the perfect souvenir. The t-shirt shops smell like the hot, square irons putting the decals on the shirts. The small children with their ice cream cones dripping down their arms and smeared on their faces make me smile. Once you get that first drip of melted pleasure, your ice cream cone becomes a mini flood that you can't stop. The clank and rattle of the tram car repeating every few seconds to watch out, as people scurry out of its way. **[Here is another example of a fragment, Polly. This fragment is missing both a subject and a verb. Who hears the clank and rattle of the car? Adding a subject and a verb will make your ideas easier to understand.]**

The rides at the amusement pier are exciting and wild. They are thrilling as ever making, making my knuckles white as I hold on tighter the older I get. Vendors call out trying to get you

to try their games to win stuffed animals. I don't want to say no, so I simply walk by them, as if oblivious to their invitations. The children scamper from one ride to the next. The toddlers on the kiddie rides are as thrilled as I was on the coaster. Shrieks and screams can be heard near the coaster and the haunted mansion. Both scary, yet people flock there to ride. They wait with anticipation. The first timers, not knowing what to expect, wait with anticipation and nerves like a groom waits for his bride.

I love to go parasailing. **[This body paragraph is missing a topic sentence that says which part of Seaside City your paragraph will discuss. Which part of Seaside City have you described in the rest of your paragraph? Adding a topic sentence will help your readers feel more prepared for the rest of your paragraph.]** You ride a boat bumpy and fast, as someone else is up in the parasail. Your kidneys are being bounced like a basketball and you feel really happy that you went to the restroom before boarding the boat. Then it is your turn to go up in the parasail. It is so peaceful, you feel free like a bird with giant wings just gliding over the ocean. You look down at the tiny boat below you, you know how bumpy and fast it's going; but up here it's smooth, peaceful, soothing, slowly gliding, with not a care in the world. You look to one side and see the ocean and the horizon. There is a big world out there, but you are but a small bird in flight. You look to the other side and see the beach dotted with colorful umbrellas. It looks like a giant, rectangular cookie covered with M&M's. You look back down and see the boat is still there. You really are not a bird at all and they begin to pull you in. You see rays swimming behind the boat but no dolphins this time.

The beach is my favorite part of the vacation. It is a magical place. I love being by the water. The roar of the waves, peaceful and relaxing, the breeze trying in vain to cool my hot, sun soaked body, and the gritty sand. I like to be barefooted but until you get to the moist sand it is

like walking on charcoals. The children are playing in the giant sandbox we call the beach. Their shovels and buckets busy at work. Some are making sandcastles, little masterpieces in their eyes. On the edge of the beach are sand sculptures which truly are real masterpieces of art. I enjoy the small children at the very edge of the ocean jumping over the wave which was once big and powerful, as it disappears into sea foam. [**<This is a really vivid detail that helps your reader to clearly imagine the people and the beach. Details like this make your topic more exciting.**] They are trying to mimic the older kids and adults out further jumping over or into the big waves. I only go out to my waist and I have to brace myself against the waves so I don't get knocked over. It's like a chess match as I will not give in to its superior power. It does not knock me over but washes the sand out from under my feet. I step onto solid sand only to have the ocean make its move again. My move, as I step once again onto solid sand. We play this never-ending game until I tire of it. Today it's a stale mate. The ocean did not knock me over.