WRITING A SUMMARY - PART III (PRACTICE & ANALYSIS)

GENERAL REMARKS ON PARAGRAPH AND SUMMARY WRITING

1) ORGANIZATION

- the necessity to focus on one specific aspect

- to be well-aware what the main message is that you want to convey

- to make sure your topic sentence reflects well the main point

- to keep a straight line of developing ideas

2) COHERENCE

- make use of suitable transition devices

(furthermore, moreover, additionally, in addition, more/most important(ly), what's more, last but not least, nevertheless, still, as a result, consequently)

* make sure you avoid sentences which don't directly support the main idea
* remember the repetition of the key phrase (but make sure you vary it)
* remember the consistent use of pronouns (plural nouns usually help to avoid he, he/she, it etc.)

Suggested adverbs:

Similarly, (un)surprisingly, strangely enough, apparently, presumably, admittedly, by contrast, in contrast

3) LANGUAGE

- try to find more formal and more sophisticated words

- use every opportunity to combine ideas in more complex sentences, making sure they are not complicated

- accuracy

**TASK 1 – ANALYSING AND IMPROVING THE SUMMARY**

Arguments for not allowing young children to stay with their mothers in prison

Arguments in favor of mothers having their children with them while paying their debt to the society are easily silenced. First, being involved in serious drugs offences and simultaneously enjoying any benefits could be misinterpreted by those outside. Additionally, children’s rights have not been incorporated at all in prison systems. Some promoting better prison conditions believe that it is utterly wrong to keep children in such atypical milieu and point out the disastrous effects of it. Children very early realize their surrounding is not an ordinary one and their using of prison vocabulary has been noted too. A very strong point is that presence of children harms relationships among prisoners.

**ANALYSE:**

* content
* organization
* coherence
* language

**Suggest possible changes.**

**Rewrite the summary by making the suggested changes.**

**POINTS TO INCLUDE:**

* unhealthy environment having severe adverse (devastating) effect on children’s well-being
* impact on children’s language
* provoking feelings of resentment and indignation among other inmates
* challenging the reputation of the institution by sending the wrong message

**IMPROVED VERSION**

Arguments in favour of mothers having their children with them while paying their debt to society are easily silenced. Firstly, being involved in serious criminal offences and simultaneously enjoying any benefits could be misinterpreted by the general public. Additionally, some promoting better prison conditions believe that keeping children in such an atypical milieu is utterly wrong, producing disastrous effects on their well-being. Children very early become conscious of their restricted surroundings, with their acquisition of prison jargon being noted as one of the inevitable consequences. Last but not least, other inmates could become envious of fellow prisoners residing in mother and baby units, considering them unfairly privileged. (107 words)

SUMMARY EXAMPLES

The policy of not permitting young children to stay with their mothers, confined to penitentiary, is justified due to intractable problems such situation causes. Firstly, keeping children in an unhealthy prison atmosphere is detrimental to their well-being. Not infrequent instances of children acquiring prison argot as a response to their immediate surroundings are another persuasive argument for frowning upon such situation. Moreover, having children in cell blocks may stir up the feeling of envy in other convicts, judging that mothers exercise more privileges and are treated more tolerantly. Finally, viewed as privileged, such treatment may ultimately convey the wrong message to the wider public, thus challenging the reputation of the institution. (111words)

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A widely appreciated therapeutic method, psychoanalysis does not necessarily prove beneficial. For one thing, undergoing this kind of treatment may foster an escapist attitude to the challenges of life diverting one’s attention and energy from real things. Thus, rather than coming to grips with the existing problems, one becomes excessively preoccupied with one’s inner self. Moreover, psychoanalysis may become a distraction from healthy social and community life, driving one to self-sufficient isolation. What’s more, attending psychoanalytic sessions may distort one’s image of oneself, detaching it from the social environment and relations with other people. Finally, the costly visits to the psychoanalyst may prove utterly useless, with no results produced whatsoever. (110 words)