

WRITING DEVELOPMENT

In her book, *The Writing Revolution* Judith Hochman tells us that students' problems with reading comprehension, as well with writing essays, occur because they have not been taught systematically to write ... to which her book gives a step-by-step guide.

The Writing Development exercises here are adapted from her programme.

Autarky

18. Paragraphs I - turning notes into a paragraph

Asked to explain how successful the Nazi economy was, I turn to my notes on Employment:

- Law to REDUCE UNEMPLOYMENT (1933) created jobs through the RAD (autobahn construction, housing, environmental work).
- Govt spending rose (1932–38: 5bn–30bn marks); Unemployment dropped from 6m to near zero.
- REARMAMENT (e.g. conscription, army supplies) boosted steel, coal, and factory work;; Nazi state jobs (e.g. clerks, prison guards) expanded.
- Jews sacked from jobs → created employment for others.
- By 1939, inflation rose, creating a financial crisis. Historian Tim Mason argued Hitler went to war to mask economic problems.

a. I summarise these into a 'basic paragraph' of three simple sentences:

"The Nazi goal was full employment. Unemployment dropped. Spending rose, causing a financial crisis."

It is not going to score me many marks! SO... how might I improve this paragraph?

b. To improve the paragraph, I will use Judith Hochman's ideas:

- Start with a topic sentence introducing the idea of the paragraph
- Expand sentences by adding factual information
- Vary vocabulary
- Use subordinating conjunctions
- Explain how this information helps us evaluate the Nazi's success, including proving information
- End with a concluding sentence

c. Doing all this, I might end up with a paragraph which reads:

"The Nazi goal was full employment, which they achieve in a number of ways. The RAD – i.e. compulsory state labour – set about the constructions of autobahns, housing and environmental works. In addition, rearmament, involving conscription and army supplies, along with state jobs such as prison guards, and sacking Jewish people, created more job opportunities, as a result of which unemployment dropped from 6m to near zero, an amazing achievement. However, to accomplish this, government spending on public works rose from 5bn to 30bn, 1932-38, and the way the Nazis financed these projects – Mefo bills (credit notes) – fuelled inflation. Thus the Nazis reduced unemployment at the cost of a financial crisis."

1. Look at my revised paragraph. Identify in it the parts where I have implemented ideas **i-vi**.

2. My second paragraph deals with Farming. My notes read:

- 1933 FARM LAW gave farmers subsidies & guaranteed sales.
- Govt kept food prices at 1928 levels.
- BUT: The Reich Food Estate controlled farmers (e.g. rules like hens laying 65 eggs/year).

Improve the following 'basic paragraph' using techniques **i-vi** above:

"The Farm Law helped farmers. Prices were fixed. The Reich Food estate controlled farmers."

3. Write a third paragraph deals with the Industry. Using the notes on the webpage:

- Start by summarising them into a 'basic paragraph' of three simple sentences.
- Improve the paragraph using ideas **i-vi**.

TOP TIP: before you put a paragraph 'to bed', read it (or better still, ask someone else to read it) out loud. You will immediately catch any grammatical errors, and also realise whether its meaning is clear enough.]