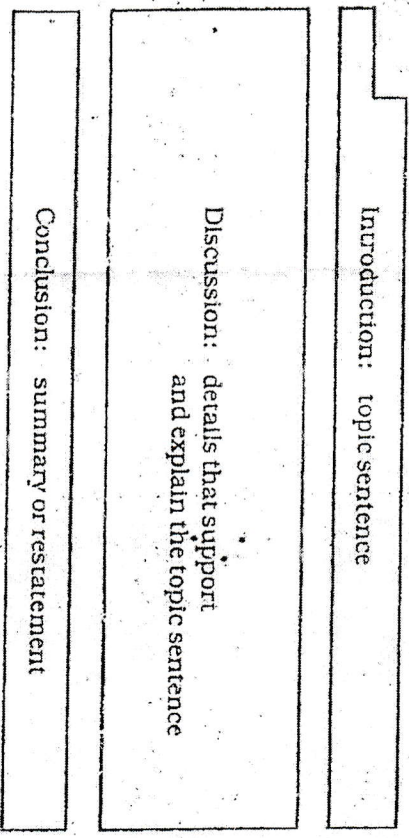


human beings they can make the society they live in better. By encouraging all people to fulfill their ambitions, a society grows stronger and more productive as a whole.

The Proportion of the Three Parts of the Paragraph

The paragraph is a construction built with three parts, and these parts should have correct proportions (lengths). The introduction and conclusion are shorter than the discussion in the middle.



Writing Task I

Study this example of a paragraph having good proportion and indicate the three different parts with parentheses (). Notice the length of each section.

(Because my brother and I have very different personalities and interests, it is sometimes hard to believe we are related.) My brother, Jim, is extremely friendly and outgoing. He likes to spend all of his free time with friends, whereas I need a lot of privacy and enjoy being by myself. In addition, while I have enjoyed school since I was a child, Jim has never liked school. He prefers working at a job and being very active physically. I actually think I could be happy being a student all my life (in spite of our differences Jim and I are close friends as well as brothers.)

Writing Task 2

Now read the following paragraph written about the same topic: the different personalities of two brothers. Again indicate the three

parts of the paragraph (introduction, discussion, and conclusion with parentheses. Afterwards, fill in the outline below.

(Because my brother and I have very different personalities and interests, many people do not believe that we are brothers or even friends.) My brother, Jim, is much friendlier than I am; and he does not like school, whereas I do. In spite of our differences Jim and I are close friends, and our differences only make our relationship as brothers more interesting.)

I. (Topic Sentence)

II. (Discussion)

A. _____

B. _____

C. _____

III. (Conclusion)

Questions: What is wrong with the proportion?

Which part is the longest? *conclusion*

How does the organization affect the power of the paragraph?

The problem with this paragraph is the discussion. The topic sentence tells the reader that the paragraph is about the difference between two brothers, but the discussion only gives two differences without much elaboration. The discussion part of the paragraph