http://clg.wlv.ac.uk/demos/similarity/index.html
Terminology

• **Discourse**: anything longer than a single utterance or sentence
  – Monologue
  – Dialogue:
    • May be multi-party
    • May be human-machine
Is this text coherent?

“Consider, for example, the difference between passages (18.71) and (18.72). Almost certainly not. The reason is that these utterances, when juxtaposed, will not exhibit coherence. Do you have a discourse? Assume that you have collected an arbitrary set of well-formed and independently interpretable utterances, for instance, by randomly selecting one sentence from each of the previous chapters of this book.”
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What makes a text coherent?

• Discourse structure
  – In a coherent text the parts of the discourse exhibit a sensible ordering and hierarchical relationship

• Rhetorical structure
  – The elements in a coherent text are related via meaningful relations (“coherence relations”)

• Entity structure (“Focus”)
  – A coherent text is about some entity or entities, and the entity/entities is/are referred to in a structured way throughout the text.