With & Without

Read the following two passages. One contains no transition words/phrases while the other one does. Answer the questions that follow.

Passage #1

Instagramming is my life. I work every day to find and create the absolute best pictures of dogs to post to the 'gram. When I was 10, I created my own 'gram account by myself. In one weekend, I went to the beach, stores, and friend's houses looking for pets to photograph. I knew that I would spend the rest of my life taking pictures of pet dogs and posting them. I am so addicted to pet dogs and Instagramming that if I am not actually posting pics, I am planning my next round of pics.

I receive many comments each day from tons of different people who follow me. There's a old lady in Switzerland and a little boy in New Zealand who are two of my favorite followers and commentators. When I open my Instagram account, the first thing I see is "Love it!" from them both in my comment feed. It makes me happy to make them happy. In my mind, I am already living my career goal… except I don't get paid! Maybe someday I will, though.

I recently got a birthday present for a monthly magazine called *Photographing Pets*. I knew that this would help feed my addiction while I am planning my next round of photos to post. This is one of the best pet photography magazines I have ever seen. It gives random tips about photography like, "How to Keep Pets' Eyes Focused". The pictures themselves entice me even further. My current photos show the eyes of Labradors, German Shepherds, and Dachshunds.

I decided to start volunteering to take photos of homeless shelter pets and then posting them to Instagram. Since I no one will pay me yet, I figured I could volunteer, do it all for free, and then still post that on my resume some day as work experience. I volunteer now for a local shelter called County Animal Shelter where I take amazing photos of their dogs and cats and then post them on my Instagram account with a link that goes to the shelter's website for more information. It's a really hard job because I get attached to those animals and I want to help them all.

I still manage to keep up with my school work, projects, and home chores. I spend so much time on taking photos and posting them to Instagram that it's probably like a real job. I am currently planning a a series of Instagram photos about pet birds. I love to post to Instagram so much that I should probably back off a little, but it's necessary to feed my addiction. Every time I take a photo of a pet and post it on the 'gram, it makes me want to see more pets, take even more photos, and share them with other people around the world to make them smile.

Questions for Passage #1

In what way does this essay feels “choppy”?

Explain what’s ineffective about using “I” so many times to start sentences.

The reader is not often clear about how the paragraphs relate to each other nor how they relate to the overall topic of the essay. Which sentences or paragraphs seem out of place, like they don’t really fit in?

What could the writer do differently or change in order to help the essay have a better “flow” to it?

Questions for Passage #2

Circle all the places you see transition words/phrases used in this essay.

How does the quoted sentence in this essay seem different from the way it appears in the first essay because of the transition that follows right after?

What else did the author change to make the essay seem to “flow” better?

Is the author’s purpose the same in both essays? What is the author’s purpose in each one?

Passage #2

Instagramming is my life. I work every day to find and create the absolute best pictures of dogs to post to the ‘gram. When I was 10, I created my own ‘gram account by myself. In one weekend, I went to the beach, stores, and friend’s houses looking for pets to photograph. After that experience, I knew that I would spend the rest of my life taking pictures of pet dogs and posting them. I am so addicted to pet dogs and Instagramming that if I am not actually posting pics, I am planning my next round of pics.

As a result of my addiction to posting pet pics on Instagram, I receive many comments each day from tons of different people who follow me. For instance, there’s a old lady in Switzerland and a little boy in New Zealand who are two of my favorite followers and commentators. When I open my Instagram account, the first thing I see is “Love it!” from them both in my comment feed. It makes me happy to make them happy. In my mind, I am already living my career goal… except I don’t get paid! Maybe someday I will, though.

As if receiving constant Instagram comments wasn’t enough, I recently got a birthday present for a monthly magazine called *Photographing Pets*. I knew that this would help feed my addiction while I am planning my next round of photos to post. This is one of the best pet photography magazines I have ever seen. It gives random tips about photography like, “How to Keep Pets’ Eyes Focused”. This is something that I have never thought of, but I know that it’s tips like this that will make me an even better photographer and Instagram poster. Not only do I appreciate the photo tips, but the actual pictures themselves entice me even further. My current photos show the eyes of Labradors, German Shepherds, and Dachshunds, so I’m learning a lot already!

Although looking at the magazine each month is exciting, it doesn’t compare to the actual animals in real life. Therefore, I decided to start volunteering to take photos of homeless shelter pets and then posting them to Instagram. Since I no one will pay me yet, I figured I could volunteer, do it all for free, and then still post that on my resume some day as work experience. As a result, I also volunteer now regularly for a local shelter called County Animal Shelter where I take amazing photos of their dogs and cats and then post them on my Instagram account with a link that goes to the shelter’s website for more information. It’s a really hard job because I get attached to those animals and I want to help them all.

Meanwhile, as I’m doing these volunteer photos and posting to Instagram all the time for the shelter, I still manage to keep up with my school work, projects, and home chores. I spend so much time on taking photos and posting them to Instagram that it’s probably like a real job. I am currently planning a a series of Instagram photos about pet birds. I love to post to Instagram so much that I should probably back off a little, but it’s necessary to feed my addiction. Every time I take a photo of a pet and post it on the ‘gram, it makes me want to see more pets, take even more photos, and share them with other people around the world to make them smile.