

Read the passage. Then answer the question below.

Roller Coasters

You know what is coming. Butterflies flutter around inside your stomach. The wind picks up the higher you go. Excited voices and shrieks of laughter surround you. A low constant rumbling filters through your body. Slowly, you reach the top. You sit motionless, teetering on the edge of a high steep hill. Looking off in the distance, you see cars and trucks traveling like ants on a sliver of highway. Suddenly you tip forward and begin a sharp descent. Picking up speed, your mouth opens wide, and a loud wail erupts from deep in your throat. You are not screaming alone. Without warning, you hit bottom and are jostled first left and then immediately right as you begin yet another slow climb up a long noisy hill. The butterflies are gone, replaced with the feeling that you left your stomach somewhere at the top of the first hill.

What is all this? Where are you? You are on one of the many roller coaster rides located in amusement parks found all across the country.

There are wooden and steel roller coasters. Wooden roller coasters use posts made out of wood to support the track. The tracks are the parts of the ride that hold the rails. Passengers ride in cars. Most roller coasters link several cars together like a small train. The riders sit on benches or seats and have shoulder harnesses or bars that go across their legs to keep them in the seats.

Steel roller coasters can be built taller and run faster than wooden roller coasters. Strong steel posts support the tracks that hold the rails on these roller coasters. The posts can be put together quite easily, which allows these tracks to be much higher than most wooden roller coasters.

Many steel roller coasters have sections that invert the riders. The cars travel upside down for a brief time before returning upright. Some tracks also twist and turn into spirals while inverting the riders.

Most roller coaster rides start off with a climb up a long steep hill. Once at the top, the cars are released and gravity takes over. Roller coasters usually reach their fastest speeds at the bottom of the first hill, which is most often the tallest of all the hills encountered during the ride.

The cars stay on the rails through the use of three sets of wheels. A pair of steel rails sits on the top of the tracks. One set of wheels moves on top of the rails. A second set moves alongside the rails, while a third set of wheels moves under the rails. Strong brakes slow the cars down as the ride approaches its stop.

There are usually two types of track layouts. The out-and-back roller coasters have a long oval shape using long straight tracks with just a few turns. Twister roller coasters have lots of sharp turns and take up less space because they twist and turn around themselves.

Early roller coasters made of wood were located in Europe. They did not have many steep hills or sharp turns and did not travel very fast. As roller coaster engineers made improvements, the roller coasters were able to travel faster and make sharper turns. Soon they were moving along the rails at speeds up to 50 miles per hour.

Roller coaster rides can last from less than a minute to almost four minutes. The length of time depends on how long the track is and how fast the roller coaster cars are able to travel along the track.

Engineers who design and build roller coasters will continue to search for the highest, fastest, and most exciting roller coaster ride. Likewise, people who ride roller coasters will continue to look for and enjoy the thrill of the ride.

Analyze how the author structures the text. In an essay explain why the beginning of the passage is written in a different style than the rest of the passage.