

**Task: Sentence combining.**

Combine sentences for better flow.

Add transitions where necessary.

A team of architecture students at MIT built a garden wall. They used an ancient construction technique called “rammed earth.” They wanted to test the method using New England soils. The team built its test wall behind the MIT Museum. They used a combination of 30 percent Boston Blue Clay mixed with sand and gravel. Twelve tons of this clay came from an excavation site of a new building at Harvard. The clay is common at depths of 30 to 60 feet in the metropolitan Boston area. The excavation firm was J.F. White. They donated the clay to the MIT crew.

The earthen wall has one primary advantage over concrete. This is its environmental sustainability. Seven percent of CO<sub>2</sub> emissions can be attributed to concrete. Preparation of a rammed earth mixture produces very little CO<sub>2</sub>. A building made of rammed earth creates no disposal hazard when demolished. Parts of the Great Wall of China are made of rammed earth. The Great Wall is more than two thousand years old.

Adapted and partially excerpted from MIT News Office release: Brehm, Denise.

[“Architects build on history: Ancient ‘rammed earth’ method used for wall.”](#) MIT News Office. September 16, 2005.