How to Master Skills for the TOEFL® iBT

Writing Intermediate

Michael A. Putlack | Will Link | Stephen Poirier
How to Master Skills for the TOEFL® iBT Writing Intermediate
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How to Master Skills for the TOEFL iBT Writing

Intermediate

Michael A. Putlack | Will Link | Stephen Poirier
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### A. Information on the TOEFL® iBT

#### The Format of the TOEFL® iBT

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Section</th>
<th>Number of Questions</th>
<th>Timing</th>
<th>Score</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Reading</strong></td>
<td><strong>3–5 Passages</strong>&lt;br&gt;- approximately 700 words each&lt;br&gt;- 12–14 questions per passage</td>
<td>60–100 min.</td>
<td>30 points</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Listening</strong></td>
<td><strong>2–3 Conversations</strong>&lt;br&gt;- 12–25 exchanges each (3 min.)&lt;br&gt;- 5 questions per conversation</td>
<td>60–90 min.</td>
<td>30 points</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>4–6 Lectures</strong>&lt;br&gt;- 500–800 words each (3–5 min.)&lt;br&gt;- 6 questions per lecture</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BREAK</td>
<td></td>
<td>10 min.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Speaking</strong></td>
<td><strong>2 Independent Tasks</strong>&lt;br&gt;(preparation: 15 sec. / response: 45 sec.)&lt;br&gt;1 personal experience&lt;br&gt;2 personal choice/opinion</td>
<td>20 min.</td>
<td>30 points</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>2 Integrated Tasks: Read-Listen-Speak</strong>&lt;br&gt;(preparation: 30 sec. / response: 60 sec.)&lt;br&gt;1 campus situation topic&lt;br&gt;- reading: 75–100 words (45 sec.)&lt;br&gt;- conversation: 150–180 words (60–80 sec.)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2 academic course topic&lt;br&gt;- reading: 75–100 words (45 sec.)&lt;br&gt;- lecture: 150–220 words (60–90 sec.)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>2 Integrated Tasks: Listen-Speak</strong>&lt;br&gt;(preparation: 20 sec. / response: 60 sec.)&lt;br&gt;1 campus situation topic&lt;br&gt;- conversation: 180–220 words (60–90 sec.)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2 academic course topic&lt;br&gt;- lecture: 230–280 words (90–120 sec.)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Writing</strong></td>
<td><strong>1 Integrated Task: Read-Listen-Write (20 min.)</strong>&lt;br&gt;- reading: 230–300 words (3 min.)&lt;br&gt;- lecture: 230–300 words (2 min.)&lt;br&gt;- a summary of 150–225 words</td>
<td>50 min.</td>
<td>30 points</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>1 Independent Task (30 min.)</strong>&lt;br&gt;- a minimum 300-word essay</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
B. Information on the Writing Section

The Writing section of the TOEFL® iBT measures test takers’ ability to use writing to communicate in an academic environment. This section has two writing tasks. For the first writing task, you will read a passage and listen to a lecture and then answer a question based on what you have read and heard. For the second writing task, you will answer a question based on your own knowledge and experience.

1. Types of Writing Tasks

(1) Integrated Writing Task

- Read – You will read a short text of about 230–300 words on an academic topic for 3 minutes. You may take notes on the reading passage.
- Listen – After reading the text, you will listen to a lecture discussing the same topic from a different perspective for about 2 minutes. You may take notes on the lecture.
- Write – You will have 20 minutes to write a 150- to 225-word summary in response to the following kinds of questions:

  **Casting Doubt**
  - Summarize the points made in the lecture, being sure to explain how they cast doubt on specific points made in the reading passage.
  - Summarize the points made in the lecture, being sure to explain how they challenge specific claims/arguments made in the reading passage.

  *cf. This question type accounts for almost all of the questions that have been asked on the TOEFL® iBT so far.*

  **Problem-Solution**
  - Summarize the points made in the lecture, being sure to specifically explain how they answer the problems raised in the reading passage.

(2) Integrated Writing Task

You will have 30 minutes to write an essay of at least 300 words in response to the following kinds of questions:

  **Agree / Disagree**
  - Do you agree or disagree with the following statement? *[A sentence or sentences that present an issue]* Use specific reasons and examples to support your answer.

  *cf. This question type accounts for almost all of the essay topics that have been asked on the TOEFL® iBT so far.*

  **Preference**
  - Some people say X. Others believe Y. Which opinion do you agree with? Use specific reasons and examples to support your answer.
  - Some people do X. Other people do Y. Which do you think is better? Use specific reasons and examples to support your opinion.
2. Writing Scoring Rubrics

(1) Integrated Task (Question 1)

Your response to the Integrated Task will be scored according to these criteria:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Score</th>
<th>Task Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>A response at this level is a well-organized summary of the lecture in connection with the reading. The response includes important points made in the lecture and appropriately explains how they are related to important points made in the reading. It shows appropriate language structure and usage, with only occasional minor errors which do not interfere with conveying information and connections.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>A response at this level contains most of the important points from the lecture and the reading and is generally good in relating the information from the lecture to that from the reading. But it may omit some points or explain them imprecisely. It may also show noticeable minor language errors or an occasional lack of clarity.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>A response at this level includes some important information from the lecture and connects it with the relevant information from the reading. But it may omit one key point made in the lecture and shows only limited understanding of the information. Some content or connections between ideas may be incomplete or incorrect; errors in grammar or usage make some sentences unclear.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>A response at this level does not include sufficient relevant information from the lecture and the reading and is not successful in relating the information from the lecture to that from the reading. It is characterized by language errors or expressions that make it difficult for the reader to understand key ideas or to follow connections among ideas.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>A response at this level contains little or no important points from the lecture and fails to relate information from the lecture and the reading. It is poorly written and contains so many language errors that it is difficult to understand it.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0</td>
<td>A response at this level only copies sentences from the reading, is not related to the topic, is written in a language other than English, or is blank.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
(2) Independent Task (Question 2)

Your essay for the Independent Task will be scored according to these criteria:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Score</th>
<th>Task Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>An essay at this level effectively responds to the topic and task by clearly stating an opinion and is easy to understand. It is well organized and shows unity, progression, and coherence. It is well developed with clearly appropriate examples, reasons, and/or details, and it displays a good command of language, including a variety of sentence structures and well-suited choices of words and idioms to express ideas.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>An essay at this level responds to the topic and task well, but some points may not be fully supported. It is generally well organized and shows unity, progression, and coherence with only occasional redundancy or lack of clarity. It is also generally well developed with appropriate examples, reasons, and/or details, and it demonstrates a good use of language, including various sentence structures and range of vocabulary with occasional language errors that do not obscure the meaning.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>An essay at this level responds to the topic and task on a basic level with somewhat developed examples, reasons, and/or details. It shows unity, progression, and coherence in spite of occasional, unclear connections among ideas. It is also characterized by correct but limited use of grammar and vocabulary, including errors in sentence formation and word choice that may make some sentences unclear or difficult to understand.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>An essay at this level displays limited development in response to the topic and task, with inappropriate or insufficient supporting details. It has poor organization or connections among ideas and is marked by obviously inappropriate word choice or word forms and an accumulation of errors in grammar and/or usage.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>An essay at this level responds to the task confusingly. It lacks any organization and development. It contains little or no detail or details that are not related to the task, and it shows serious and frequent errors in grammar and usage.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0</td>
<td>An essay at this level only contains words from the topic, is not related to the topic, is written in a language other than English, or is blank.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
**PART 1  Integrated Writing**

1. **Note Taking & Outlining**
   In this section, you will practice taking notes while reading an academic passage and listening to a lecture on the same topic. Also, you will practice identifying and expressing the main arguments from both the reading and the lecture on a sentence level.

2. **Paraphrasing & Summarizing**
   This section helps you to practice paraphrasing some important information from the reading and lecture in your own words as well as summarizing both the reading passage and the lecture.
3 Synthesizing & Organizing

This section allows you to practice combining the main arguments from both the reading and the lecture in one sentence. It also provides you with a useful template for writing a response.

4 Writing & Checking

In this part, you will read the academic passage and listen to the lecture once again and will be asked to write a completely new response on your own. You can evaluate your response with the given checklist.
PART 2 Independent Writing

5 Understanding the Topic | Brainstorming
These sections help you understand the essay topic and brainstorm your ideas about the topic. In the Understanding the Topic section, you will learn what kinds of questions you should ask to understand the topic appropriately. In the Brainstorming section, you can practice brainstorming your ideas in a structured way by using a mind map.

6 Outlining | Writing the Thesis Statement & Topic Sentences
These sections help you practice making an outline of your ideas and translating them into sentences. In the Outlining section, you will practice organizing your brainstormed ideas into a logical sequence. In the Writing the Thesis Statement & Topic Sentences section, you will practice writing the most important sentences in an essay—the thesis statement, topic sentences, and the summary sentence(s).

7 Writing the Details
This section will ask you to complete your essay based on your outline. You should support your thesis statement and topic sentences with details, such as general statements, reasons, and examples.
Completing & Checking Your Essay

This part offers a new essay topic on which you should write an essay. You have to plan your time to write the essay in 30 minutes. You can evaluate your essay with the given checklist.

Essential Essay Topics

This part provides you with a list of essential essay topics reconstructed from the ones that have so far been asked on the TOEFL® iBT. By practicing writing your essays on these topics, you will effectively prepare yourself for the Independent Writing of the TOEFL® iBT.

Actual Tests

This part offers two full practice tests that are modeled on the Writing section of the TOEFL® iBT. These tests will familiarize you with the actual test format of the TOEFL® iBT.
PART 1

Integrated Writing

- **Chapter 1  Casting Doubt**
  Unit 1  _ Technology
  Unit 2  _ Environment I
  Unit 3  _ Sociopolitics
  Unit 4  _ Environment II
  Unit 5  _ Education

- **Chapter 2  Problem-Solution**
  Unit 6  _ Business
  Unit 7  _ Education
  Unit 8  _ Environment
Overview

Introduction
The Integrated Writing Task on the TOEFL® iBT has two parts. The first part is a reading passage, and the second part is a listening lecture that is related to the reading passage. After reading and listening, you must then answer a question related to the passage and lecture.

Reading
The reading passage, which covers an academic topic, is typically 230-300 words long, and the reading time is 3 minutes. There is typically an introduction paragraph to begin the passage. Then the reading passage provides some main points in the body. There may or may not be a short conclusion.

Listening
The listening lecture is typically 230-300 words long and takes about 2 minutes. The lecture begins with a short introduction and then follows by providing counterpoints that relate to the topic. These points typically cast doubt upon or challenge the arguments that were made in the reading passage. Sometimes, they may provide solutions to the problems posed in the reading.

Writing
The ideal response provides information on all the points and counterpoints that are given in the reading and the lecture. The summary should be about 150-225 words long although it may be longer. You should not give your opinion in the summary.

Question Types

1. Casting Doubt
   - Summarize the points made in the lecture, being sure to explain how they cast doubt on specific points made in the reading passage.
   - Summarize the points made in the lecture, being sure to explain how they challenge specific claims/arguments made in the reading passage.
   cf. This question type accounts for almost all of the questions that have been asked on the TOEFL® iBT so far.

2. Problem-Solution
   - Summarize the points made in the lecture, being sure to specifically explain how they answer the problems raised in the reading passage.
Useful Tips

1. Casting Doubt
   You should mention all three points and counterpoints. You should relate each point and its counterpoint one at a time, providing the reasons why each counterpoint disagrees with the point in the reading passage.

2. Problem-Solution
   You should note the individual solutions that the lecture provides for each problem. The professor will mention why each solution will work. You should be sure to include the reasons for these solutions in your response.

Key Strategies

1. Note Taking & Outlining
   _ Take notes on each point in the reading passage and listening lecture.
   _ Focus on the main ideas, not the minor ones.
   _ Create an outline to show how each point and counterpoint relate to one another.

2. Paraphrasing & Summarizing
   _ Do not repeat the words of the reading passage exactly as they are written.
   _ Paraphrase the sentences from the reading passage and listening lecture.
   _ Summarize the reading passage and listening lecture in your own words.

3. Synthesizing & Organizing
   _ Recognize how the points and counterpoints are related to one another.
   _ Be sure to mention all three of the points and counterpoints in your response.
   _ Organize your response by including an introduction and, when appropriate, a short conclusion.

4. Writing & Checking
   _ Write your response from the notes and outline that you wrote.
   _ Be sure to include an introduction, body, and conclusion. However, the conclusion is optional.
   _ Check over your writing to make sure that you did not make any mistakes.
One of the most controversial topics in education these days is the way to pay teachers their salaries. Many people favor determining teachers' salaries based on merit. In other words, teachers will be paid according to how well they teach and how well their students do in the classroom. This is an idea that should be implemented for a number of reasons.

First, this is a very fair way of paying teachers. Nowadays, teachers are paid primarily based upon seniority. The longer the person has been teaching, the more money the teacher receives. However, this is not fair. Now, the best teachers can receive the higher salaries they deserve even if they have not been teaching for very long. Also, ineffective teachers will receive lower salaries even if they have been employed for ten or twenty years.

Second of all, paying teachers on a merit basis will encourage most of them to perform better. They will actually begin to compete with one another, which will improve the quality of the education they provide for their students. They will all improve when competing against one another. Likewise, they will begin to develop better teaching methods in an effort to perform better in the classroom.

Finally, if the teachers are trying and working harder, then the students themselves will benefit greatly. The fact that the teachers are providing better lessons means that students will learn much better. Also, the students themselves will likely be inspired to study harder when they see just how hard their teachers are working.

It is obvious that a merit-pay-based system will have several benefits for both teachers and students. All school systems should consider implementing this method as soon as possible.
Male Professor: I know that paying teachers based upon some sort of merit system sounds great. However, it actually has a number of disadvantages. You might not have considered them, so let me fill you in.

To begin with, who is going to determine the merit of each teacher? The principal, most likely. While most principals will do this in an honest fashion, some may not. First, the principal might use the merit-based policy to control many of the teachers. The teachers may have to follow the principal’s rules or find their salaries getting cut. Also, the principal may show favoritism towards various teachers and ignore good teachers instead to give pay raises to his friends. We can’t allow that to happen.

Here’s another point. Okay, yes, teachers will most likely try harder and develop new teaching methods and strategies. But they probably won’t share any effective strategies with their colleagues. After all, they’ll want to earn more money than them. This isn’t what education should be about. Education is about sharing knowledge, not hoarding it. And you’re also likely to see less cooperation among teachers. All of this new competition is bound to create rivalries between faculty members.

Finally, this plan might have a negative effect on the students themselves. Since part of the merit-pay system will be determined by grades, teachers will be likely not to give failing or low grades to bad students. We’ll probably see countless instances of grade inflation. Also, some teachers will probably pass students who should be kept back a grade. This will be doing the student a disservice and shouldn’t happen.

As you can see, a merit-pay system would have a number of disadvantages. School systems should think hard before they implement them.
Directions  You have 20 minutes to plan and write your response. Your response will be judged on the basis of the quality of your writing and on how well your response presents the points in the lecture and their relationship to the reading passage. Typically, an effective response will be 150 to 225 words.

Question  Summarize the points made in the lecture you just heard, explaining how they cast doubt on the points made in the reading.

Sample Answer

[Introductory sentence] The reading passage supports the idea of paying teachers according to how well they perform. [Topic sentence] However, the professor provides several reasons why merit pay is a bad idea.

[Refutation 1] First of all, the professor claims that the principal will probably determine the merit of each teacher. He claims that some principals may be biased when they determine who the best and worst teachers are. He asserts that bad principals may force teachers to follow their rules or suffer bad evaluations. [Relation 1] Since the best teachers will get high salaries while the worst get low ones, he fears some principals may show favoritism to certain teachers when determining salaries.

[Relation 2] Second, the professor acknowledges that teachers may try harder and develop better teaching methods. [Refutation 2] However, he doubts they will share their good methods with others. He says all the teachers will be competing against each other. He also believes there will be rivalries between teachers, so the overall quality of teaching might not rise.

[Refutation 3] Finally, the professor thinks that teachers might not fail bad students. Also, he thinks teachers will harm the students by passing them when they should be failing them. Therefore, many students will not see positive benefits from the merit-pay system. [Relation 3] This point disproves the reading passage’s contention that students will try harder when they see their teachers working hard.
Chapter 1

Casting Doubt

Unit 1 _ Technology
Unit 2 _ Environment I
Unit 3 _ Sociopolitics
Unit 4 _ Environment II
Unit 5 _ Education
One of the most promising new developments in personal transportation is the smart car. A smart car is one that utilizes advanced methods of engineering or computers with some kinds of artificial intelligence. While smart cars have not yet reached their full potential, they are sure to be beneficial to all who eventually drive them.

One advantage of smart cars is that they will help traffic flow faster. A smart car will be able to handle many of the driving duties, thereby allowing the people in the car to attend to other matters. Because the car, for the most part, will be driving itself, it will be able to select optimal routes based on their lack of vehicles and the speed with which they may be traveled upon. This, in turn, will make travel times much shorter and keep traffic moving continuously.

In addition, a smart car will have lower maintenance costs. Since the car will be almost entirely run by computers, the computers will be able to alert the owner when there is a minor problem to be fixed. The owner will then be able to fix the car at a low cost as opposed to waiting for the problem to develop into a major issue that would require an inordinate amount of money to be spent.

---

**Smart Cars - Promising New Developments**

1. **Will help**
   - handle many of the driving duties → drivers can attend to other matters
   - can choose → much shorter travel times & continuously
     moving traffic

2. **Have lower**
   - computers will alert owner when is
   - can fix problem before it becomes major issue
### Smart Cars - Not as Breathtaking as People Anticipate

1. **Will not ease traffic**
   - automobile technology improves → **1**
   - people will have to sit in **2**

2. **Will not be cheap to maintain**
   - use of very expensive, **3**
   - replacing parts → **4**

### Rewrite the main points from both notes as complete sentences.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Reading (Main Points)</th>
<th>Listening (Refutations)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Smart cars will be able to select <strong>1</strong> and avoid highly traveled roads, which will decrease <strong>2</strong> for people.</td>
<td>Historically speaking, traffic always <strong>5</strong> with each technological development, therefore smart cars will still get stuck in <strong>6</strong>.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Because computers will warn the owners of <strong>3</strong>, they can fix the problems while they are <strong>4</strong>, which will not require a large amount of money.</td>
<td>Since many of the parts are <strong>7</strong>, they have to be manufactured specially, so the cost of replacing them will be <strong>8</strong> than normal.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Paraphrasing & Summarizing

The following pairs of sentences are based on the reading. Complete each paraphrase by filling in the blanks with appropriate words or phrases.

1. A smart car is one that utilizes advanced methods of engineering or computers with some kinds of artificial intelligence.
   → Paraphrase: Smart cars operate by _______________________________ that can think for themselves to some extent.

2. A smart car will be able to handle many of the driving duties, thereby allowing the people in the car to attend to other matters.
   → Paraphrase: By doing ________________________________, a smart car will enable ________________________________.

3. Because the smart car will be driving itself, it will be able to select optimal routes based on their lack of vehicles and the speed with which they may be traveled upon.
   → Paraphrase: The car will decide ________________________________ by looking at how many cars are on various roads and ________________________________.

4. Since a smart car will be almost entirely run by computers, the computers will be able to alert the owner when there is a minor problem to be fixed.
   → Paraphrase: The computers in a smart car will ________________________________, no matter how small it may be.

5. The owner will be able to fix the car at a low cost as opposed to waiting for the problem to develop into a major issue that would require an inordinate amount of money to be spent.
   → Paraphrase: Because the owner can ________________________________, he will not have to suffer a major problem and therefore ________________________________.

Complete the following summary.

Smart cars are not completely developed yet, but they are going to be very important in the future. They will help drivers (1) much faster. They will do this by taking over the driving. This will allow the passengers and driver to do other things, and it will also ensure that the car takes (2) by avoiding traffic. In addition, owners will not have to (3) . The car’s computers will monitor all possible problems, thereby enabling the owner (4) before they develop into something major. This will then save the owner a lot of money on (5) .
The following pairs of sentences are based on the lecture. Complete each paraphrase by filling in the blanks with appropriate words or phrases.

1. It would be nice to have smart cars do all the driving for us, but they probably won't be as breathtaking as everyone anticipates.
   → Paraphrase: Even though people would love to ______________________________________, smart cars will probably not ______________________________________.

2. It’s a documented fact that, as automobile technology has improved, the amount of traffic has steadily increased.
   → Paraphrase: It is well known that ______________________________________.

3. Just because they’re smart cars doesn’t mean that they’ll be smart enough to get you out of a traffic jam.
   → Paraphrase: The artificial intelligence in smart cars will not be sufficient enough ______________________________________.

4. Most of the parts of a smart car will be custom-made, so, due to the manufacturing process, replacing the parts will be expensive.
   → Paraphrase: It is going to be expensive to ______________________________________ because of the way that ______________________________________.

5. The labor bill may be cheap, but the bill for the parts is going to be astronomical in some cases.
   → Paraphrase: Even though ______________________________________ for his actual work, it will still be extremely expensive to ______________________________________.

Complete the following summary.

While most people are expecting great things from smart cars, they will probably not be quite as wonderful as people think they will be. Even though vehicular technology is constantly improving, traffic actually (1) ______________________________________ with every improvement. There will probably be more, not fewer, (2) ______________________________________. So, while the cars will be driving themselves, making it easier on the owners, the trips will actually (3) ______________________________________. Also, when the cars need to be maintained with (4) ______________________________________, the owners will have to pay a lot of money. Since smart cars are custom-made, the parts are going to be expensive to replace, thereby requiring their owners to (5) ______________________________________.
The following sentences are some important points from both the reading and the lecture. Combine each pair of sentences to create your own sentence using the given pattern.

1 Reading Because the car, for the most part, will be driving itself, it will be able to select optimal routes based on their lack of vehicles and the speed with which they may be traveled upon.
   Lecture It's a documented fact that, as automobile technology has improved, the amount of traffic has steadily increased.
   → Combine The reading passage claims that __________________________, but the speaker claims that __________________________.

2 Reading The smart car will make travel times much shorter and keep traffic moving continuously.
   Lecture While we may have cars do the driving for us, you can expect to sit in longer traffic jams.
   → Combine The author declares that __________________________, yet the professor states that __________________________.

3 Reading Smart cars will have lower maintenance costs.
   Lecture The fact that most parts are custom-made means that, due to the manufacturing process, replacing the parts will be expensive.
   → Combine In contrast to the statement in the reading claiming that __________________________, the professor asserts that __________________________.

4 Reading The owner will be able to fix the car at a low cost as opposed to waiting for the problem to develop into a major issue that would require an inordinate amount of money being spent.
   Lecture The labor bill may be cheap, but the bill for the parts is going to be astronomical in some cases.
   → Combine Whereas the reading passage asserts that __________________________, the lecturer declares that __________________________.
Review the notes from the reading and the lecture. Complete the following chart with full sentences.

<p>| | |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Introduction</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| 1 | The reading passage and lecture both discuss ____________________________.
| 2 | However, the professor states that ____________________________.
| 3 | She gives two reasons why ____________________________.
| 4 | First, the professor asserts that ____________________________.
| 5 | She states that, as automobile technology has improved, ____________________________.
| 6 | This contradicts the reading passage, which affirms that ____________________________.
| 7 | Also, the lecture claims that ____________________________.
|   |   |
| **Body 1** |   |
| 8 | Next, the lecturer mentions ____________________________.
| 9 | She declares that ____________________________.
| 10 | The reading, however, states that ____________________________.
| 11 | However, the professor states that, ____________________________.
|   |   |
| **Body 2** |   |
|   |   |
| **Conclusion (Optional)** |   |
| 12 | In conclusion, ____________________________.
One of the most promising new developments in personal transportation is the smart car. A smart car is one that utilizes advanced methods of engineering or computers with some kinds of artificial intelligence. While smart cars have not yet reached their full potential, they are sure to be beneficial to all who eventually drive them.

One advantage of smart cars is that they will help traffic flow faster. A smart car will be able to handle many of the driving duties, thereby allowing the people in the car to attend to other matters. Because the car, for the most part, will be driving itself, it will be able to select optimal routes based on their lack of vehicles and the speed with which they may be traveled upon. This, in turn, will make travel times much shorter and keep traffic moving continuously.

In addition, a smart car will have lower maintenance costs. Since the car will be almost entirely run by computers, the computers will be able to alert the owner when there is a minor problem to be fixed. The owner will then be able to fix the car at a low cost as opposed to waiting for the problem to develop into a major issue that would require an inordinate amount of money to be spent.
A. Summarize the points made in the lecture, being sure to explain how they cast doubt on specific points made in the reading passage.

B. Check your response.

1. Are all the important points from the lecture presented accurately? □ □
2. Is the information from the lecture appropriately related to the reading? □ □
3. Is the response well organized? □ □
4. Are all the sentences grammatically correct? □ □
5. Are all the words spelled correctly? □ □
6. Are all the punctuation marks used correctly? □ □
Many environmentalists are wary of allowing the introduction of new species into an ecosystem. Ecosystems are fragile, and invasive species can often cause many problems when they are introduced where they do not belong. In fact, when they invade a new ecosystem, they often have several harmful effects.

For one, the introduction of new species can ruin the local ecosystem in many ways. First, it can act as a predator and eat other local species, thereby causing their extinction. Another way is that it can consume too much of a valuable local food source. This consumption can cause other animals not to be able to eat as much as they are accustomed to. The result may be a decrease in the number of native species.

Another way that nonnative species can be harmful is by causing the people who live in that area to suffer from financial losses. An example of this is the mesquite tree in the American Southwest. It thrives in areas with little water. However, because it soaks up the water from the ground, nearby grasses do not get enough and die. This causes local ranchers to lose money since they have to pay extra for animal feed. Also, the mesquite tree regenerates easily, so farmers must pay large amounts of money to remove the trees from their land.

Invasive Species - Harmful to the Environment

1. Ruin the local ecosystem
   - can be a predator and (1) ____________________ → make them become extinct
   - can consume too many natural resources → native species do not have (2) ____________________

2. Cause local individuals to suffer financial losses → e.g. mesquite trees
   - (3) ____________________ from the ground → grasses die from a lack of water
   - (4) ____________________ → farmers must pay a lot of money to remove the trees
Invasive Species - Not Always Harmful

1. Do not harm their new ecosystems
   - (1) _______ in Kansas → has not caused any species to go extinct
   - (2) _______ in Texas → have not killed any native species

2. Can be beneficial → e.g. (3) _______
   - devours many insects → keeps the bug population down
   - farmers do not need (4) _______ → poisons will not hurt humans

C Rewrite the main points from both notes as complete sentences.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Invasive Species</th>
<th>Listening (Refutations)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Reading (Main Points)</td>
<td>Many invasive species, like (5) _______, do not have any negative effects on their new ecosystems because they do not (6) _______.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Some nonnative species like (3) _______ can cause (4) _______ because of its killing of local plant life or the cost of paying for its removal.</td>
<td>Some invasive species, like (7) _______, which kills bugs and keeps farmers from (8) _______ that can be harmful to humans, can actually be helpful to people.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Paraphrasing & Summarizing

The following pairs of sentences are based on the reading. Complete each paraphrase by filling in the blanks with appropriate words or phrases.

1. Ecosystems are fragile, and invasive species can often cause many problems when they are introduced where they do not belong.
   → Paraphrase When __________________________ go to a new place, they can often cause many problems because ________________________________.

2. An invasive species can act as a predator and eat other local species, thereby causing their extinction.
   → Paraphrase Some nonnative species ______________________________________________, occasionally to the point of ____________________________.

3. The fact that invasive species eat all of the food can cause other animals not to be able to eat as much as they are accustomed to.
   → Paraphrase Some native species ________________________________________________, because invasive species are ________________________________.

4. Another way that nonnative species can be harmful is by causing the people who live in that area to suffer from financial losses.
   → Paraphrase Some invasive species are detrimental because ________________________________________________.

5. The mesquite tree regenerates easily, so farmers must pay large amounts of money to remove the trees from their land.
   → Paraphrase It is expensive __________________________________________________ from a plot of land since they ________________________________.

Complete the following summary.

Because ecosystems can (1) ______, most environmentalists do not want animal or plant species introduced to a new area. For example, invasive species might act as (2) ______ and kill all of a local species. Or they might simply eat (3) ______, which will cause these animals to starve to death. Other invasive species cause (4) ______. An example of this is the mesquite tree. This tree kills all the local grass, so farmers need to purchase more food for their animals. The trees are also hard to (5) ______, so farmers have to spend a lot of money paying for their removal.
B-1 The following pairs of sentences are based on the lecture. Complete each paraphrase by filling in the blanks with appropriate words or phrases.

1 Although we've discussed a lot of harmful invasive species, please remember that they are not always detrimental to the local ecosystem.
→ Paraphrase While many invasive species ____________________________, this is not always the case.

2 Everyone knows that Kansas is famous for wheat and Texas is celebrated for cows.
→ Paraphrase It is well known that ____________________________.

3 Cows are not predators, so no animals have been killed by them while they graze.
→ Paraphrase Cows are harmless creatures that ____________________________.

4 A perfect case of a beneficial invasive species is that of the cane toad, which was introduced for farmers down in Florida, among other places.
→ Paraphrase The cane toad in Florida, one of the places the animal was introduced, ____________________________.

5 Since the toads eat so many insects, farmers don't have to use any pesticides that could be dangerous to humans.
→ Paraphrase Because cane toads ____________________________, there is no need to ____________________________.

B-2 Complete the following summary.

Many people believe that all invasive species harm their new environments, but that is not necessarily true. Some nonnative plants and animals do not (1) ____________________________. Two examples of this are (2) ____________________________. The wheat has never killed another local species. Likewise, the cows simply graze in their fields and do not harm others. Also, some invasive species can actually (3) ____________________________ (4) ____________________________. One such example is the cane toad, which kills many insects that eat farmers' crops. Also, its presence means that farmers do not have to resort to using (5) ____________________________ on their crops. In this case, the cane toad has truly improved the local environment.
The following sentences are some important points from both the reading and the lecture. Combine each pair of sentences to create your own sentence using the given pattern.

1. Reading: First, a nonnative species can act as a predator and eat other local species, thereby causing their extinction.
   
   Lecture: For example, wheat has not caused the extinction of any local wildlife.
   
   Combine: The reading declares that ____________________________, but the professor claims that ____________________________.

2. Reading: Another way is that invasive species can consume too much of a valuable local food source.
   
   Lecture: And cows, of course, are not predators, so no animals have been killed by them while they graze.
   
   Combine: While the author of the reading passage claims that ____________________________, the lecturer states that ____________________________.

3. Reading: The mesquite tree’s killing of local grasses causes local ranchers to lose money since they have to pay extra for animal feed.
   
   Lecture: Cane toads devour many harmful insects, so they keep the bug population down.
   
   Combine: In opposition to the claim that ____________________________, the professor asserts that ____________________________.

4. Reading: Also, the mesquite tree regenerates easily, so farmers must pay large amounts of money to remove the trees from their land.
   
   Lecture: Also, since the toads eat so many insects, farmers don’t have to use any pesticides that could be dangerous to humans.
   
   Combine: Contrasting the reading’s assertion that ____________________________, the professor believes that ____________________________.
Review the notes from the reading and the lecture. Complete the following chart with full sentences.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Introduction</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1 The reading passage and lecture both talk about __________________________, but they disagree as to __________________________.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 The professor believes that __________________________.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3 However, the reading passage believes _____________________________________.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Body 1</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>4 The lecturer first states that __________________________.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5 He claims that __________________________.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6 The reading, however, disagrees and claims that __________________________.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7 Also, they sometimes eat all of an area’s food supply, which __________________________.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Body 2</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>8 The professor also asserts that __________________________.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9 He cites the example of __________________________.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10 He claims that __________________________.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11 However, the reading claims that __________________________.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12 The reading states that __________________________.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13 It is also expensive to __________________________.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Conclusion (Optional)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>14 Clearly, __________________________.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Many environmentalists are wary of allowing the introduction of new species into an ecosystem. Ecosystems are fragile, and invasive species can often cause many problems when they are introduced where they do not belong. In fact, when they invade a new ecosystem, they often have several harmful effects.

For one, the introduction of new species can ruin the local ecosystem in many ways. First, it can act as a predator and eat other local species, thereby causing their extinction. Another way is that it can consume too much of a valuable local food source. This consumption can cause other animals not to be able to eat as much as they are accustomed to. The result may be a decrease in the number of native species.

Another way that nonnative species can be harmful is by causing the people who live in that area to suffer from financial losses. An example of this is the mesquite tree in the American Southwest. It thrives in areas with little water. However, because it soaks up the water from the ground, nearby grasses do not get enough and die. This causes local ranchers to lose money since they have to pay extra for animal feed. Also, the mesquite tree regenerates easily, so farmers must pay large amounts of money to remove the trees from their land.
A Summarize the points made in the lecture, being sure to explain how they cast doubt on specific points made in the reading passage.

B Check your response.

1 Are all the important points from the lecture presented accurately?  
2 Is the information from the lecture appropriately related to the reading?  
3 Is the response well organized?  
4 Are all the sentences grammatically correct?  
5 Are all the words spelled correctly?  
6 Are all the punctuation marks used correctly?
A contentious issue in American politics is whether or not to raise the gasoline tax. Many people support it because they believe it will help the economy. However, their beliefs are erroneous since raising the gas tax would definitely have negative effects on the economy.

To begin with, an increase in the gas tax would disrupt the economy. Many people rely upon their cars to get to work. By raising the gas tax just a few percentage points, the government would be making people's commutes to work cost more. In many cases, they cannot afford this extra expense. In addition, if people are spending more money on gasoline, then they will spend less money purchasing other products. Since the American economy runs on consumer spending, a decrease in spending could greatly damage the economy.

Second of all, an increase in the gasoline tax would hurt those with low incomes. Naturally, it would make their gasoline more expensive, and these people simply do not have the money they would need to pay the tax. Also, since many people with low incomes live in areas with no public transportation, they might not be able to afford to go out or even make it to their workplaces. At best, they would suffer increased financial hardship.

Raising the Gasoline Tax - A Bad Economic Idea

1. Would disrupt the economy
   - could hurt (1) → make it difficult to afford commuting to work
   - people spend less on other products → could damage (2)

2. Would hurt people with low incomes
   - gasoline becomes (3) → poor people cannot afford it
   - no (4) → people cannot get to work or go out
Reading (Main Points)

Increasing the gasoline tax would be bad for America because it would increase the prices of (1) _______ and also (2) _______, which would harm the economy.

Raising the gasoline tax would harm people with low incomes since they would not be able to (3) _______ and do not have access to good (4) _______.

Listening (Refutations)

A rise in the gasoline tax would not hurt the economy since (5) _______ to be affected by it and also because there are other problems like (6) _______ that are causing economic damage.

While a gasoline tax would hurt people with low incomes, the government could (7) _______ or (8) _______ for gasoline at gas stations.
The following pairs of sentences are based on the reading. Complete each paraphrase by filling in the blanks with appropriate words or phrases.

1. Their beliefs are erroneous since raising the gas tax would definitely have negative effects on the economy.
   → Paraphrase: People who think ____________________________ are wrong.

2. By raising the gas tax just a few percentage points, the government would be making people’s commutes to work cost more.
   → Paraphrase: If ____________________________, it will make ____________________________ for everyone.

3. If people are spending more money on gasoline, then they will spend less money purchasing other products.
   → Paraphrase: ____________________________ will cause people to ____________________________.

4. Raising the gasoline tax would make gasoline more expensive, and people with low incomes simply do not have the money they would need to pay the tax.
   → Paraphrase: People who ____________________________ would not be able to afford gas if ____________________________.

5. Since many people with low incomes live in areas with no public transportation, they might not even be able to afford to go out or even make it to their workplaces.
   → Paraphrase: Those with low salaries who ____________________________ will not have enough money to ____________________________.

Complete the following summary.

Although some people believe the government should increase the gasoline tax, it would actually (1) ____________________________. First, many people use their cars to drive to work. Raising the gas tax would make these trips (2) ____________________________. And then people would spend less money (3) ____________________________. The American economy needs people to buy things, or else it will start getting bad. Also, a high gasoline tax would be bad for people who (4) ____________________________. They might not even be able to afford to (5) ____________________________. Since they cannot take public transportation, it would be difficult for them to get around.
The following pairs of sentences are based on the lecture. Complete each paraphrase by filling in the blanks with appropriate words or phrases.

1. I must say that I'm strongly in favor of raising the gas tax for a number of reasons.
   → Paraphrase: In my view, there are many reasons ____________.

2. Our economy is way too complex for just one factor to hurt the economy.
   → Paraphrase: Due to ____________, one factor alone cannot ____________.

3. There are many other factors, like health care expenses and fixing the nation's infrastructure, that are already doing tremendous economic damage.
   → Paraphrase: Many other things, such as ____________, are already harming the economy.

4. The government could give tax breaks to people whose incomes are below a certain level.
   → Paraphrase: The government could ____________ on people who ____________.

5. The government could also allow people with lower incomes to pay less money when they go to fill up their cars.
   → Paraphrase: It might be possible to ____________.

Complete the following summary.

The professor fully supports ____________ for a couple of different reasons. First, he does not agree with arguments that a higher gas tax would harm the economy. Since the American economy is so ____________, it would be impossible for an increased gas tax to damage it. Likewise, issues like ____________ are already causing lots of damage to the economy. Second, while people with ____________ would be hurt by an increased tax, there are ways to avoid this pain. The government could give them ____________ to compensate them for the increase in taxes. Or they could simply pay less when they go to fill up their cars.
The following sentences are some important points from both the reading and the lecture. Combine each pair of sentences to create your own sentence using the given pattern.

1. Reading: By raising the gas tax just a few percentage points, the government would be making people's commutes to work cost more.
   Lecture: For one thing, our economy is way too complex for just one factor to hurt the economy.

   Combine: The reading passage declares that, but the professor claims that.

2. Reading: In addition, if people are spending more money on gasoline, then they will spend less money purchasing other products.
   Lecture: Also, there are many other factors, like health care expenses and fixing the nation's infrastructure, that are already doing tremendous economic damage.

   Combine: The reading claims that, yet the professor claims that.

3. Reading: Naturally, it would make their gasoline more expensive, and these people simply do not have the money they would need to pay the tax.
   Lecture: For example, the government could give tax breaks to people whose incomes are below a certain level.

   Combine: In response to the claim that, the professor states that.

4. Reading: Also, since many people with low incomes live in areas with no public transportation, they might not even be able to afford to go out or even make it to their workplaces.
   Lecture: Or the government could also allow people with lower incomes to pay less money when they go to fill up their cars.

   Combine: While the reading asserts that, the lecturer maintains that.
Review the notes from the reading and the lecture. Complete the following chart with full sentences.

<p>| | |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Introduction</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>The professor firmly disagrees with the reading passage, which states that __________________.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Instead, the professor feels that __________________.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Body 1</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>To begin with, the reading passage declares that __________________.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>The author also mentions that __________________.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Since the American economy __________________, it would start to go into decline.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>However, the professor believes __________________.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Plus, a gas tax's effects cannot compare to __________________, which are already damaging the current economy.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Body 2</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>The reading also states that __________________.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>The professor mentions that __________________.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>He also thinks that __________________.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Conclusion (Optional)</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>The professor and the reading passage __________________.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
A contentious issue in American politics is whether or not to raise the gasoline tax. Many people support it because they believe it will help the economy. However, their beliefs are erroneous since raising the gas tax would definitely have negative effects on the economy.

To begin with, an increase in the gas tax would disrupt the economy. Many people rely upon their cars to get to work. By raising the gas tax just a few percentage points, the government would be making people's commutes to work cost more. In many cases, they cannot afford this extra expense. In addition, if people are spending more money on gasoline, then they will spend less money purchasing other products. Since the American economy runs on consumer spending, a decrease in spending could greatly damage the economy.

Second of all, an increase in the gasoline tax would hurt those with low incomes. Naturally, it would make their gasoline more expensive, and these people simply do not have the money they would need to pay the tax. Also, since many people with low incomes live in areas with no public transportation, they might not be able to afford to go out or even make it to their workplaces. At best, they would suffer increased financial hardship.
A Summarize the points made in the lecture, being sure to explain how they cast doubt on specific points made in the reading passage.

B Check your response.

1 Are all the important points from the lecture presented accurately? □ □
2 Is the information from the lecture appropriately related to the reading? □ □
3 Is the response well organized? □ □
4 Are all the sentences grammatically correct? □ □
5 Are all the words spelled correctly? □ □
6 Are all the punctuation marks used correctly? □ □
Because of the dangers of forest fires, some park rangers have started promoting a new way to take care of forests. Their method is called prescribed burning. What they do is actually start fires in forests to burn down various kinds of trees or other plant life. Unfortunately, prescribed burning is not an effective method for a number of different reasons.

First, fires are extremely difficult to control. While park rangers insist that they take tremendous precautions, it is still possible for a prescribed burning to rage out of control. This has actually happened in some cases. Because the rangers could not control the fire, it caused much more damage than a regular forest fire would have. In fact, fire is unpredictable. Rangers may want to burn one area but instead end up burning additional places because of the unpredictability of forest fires.

In addition, prescribed burning is not cheap. It costs a large amount of money to start and control a forest fire. There are numerous people and machines involved in this process, so salaries and equipment costs must be paid. Moreover, when fires start burning uncontrollably, it costs even more money to reign them back in. All things considered, prescribed burning has many disadvantages and should not be practiced.

Prescribed Burning - An Ineffective Alternative to Forest Fires

1. **Difficult to control**
   - can rage out of control → can burn more areas than (1)
   - may start to burn other unintended places

2. **Very expensive**
   - must pay for (3)
   - can cost more when fires begin (4)
Prescribed Burning - An Effective Alternative to Forest Fires

1. Rangers handle the fires.
   - can control exactly (1)______________ & determine which trees and plants to burn
   - have ways to ensure fires do not (2)______________

2. Helps rejuvenate forests
   - natural fire → (3)______________ as damaging as prescribed fire & can burn homes and kill people
   - can keep fires on (4)______________

Rewrite the main points from both notes as complete sentences.

Prescribed Burning

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Reading (Main Points)</th>
<th>Listening (Refutations)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Some prescribed burning fires may get (1)<strong><strong><strong><strong><strong><strong><strong>, which makes them burn more land than was planned and makes them (2)</strong></strong></strong></strong></strong></strong></strong> to control.</td>
<td>(5)________ consult experts to make sure that their fires don’t burn out of control, and, if the fires (6)______________, they have ways to make sure the fires do not become very bad.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prescribed burning is not cheap because (3)______________ must be paid, and it becomes (4)______________ if the fire starts to burn out of control.</td>
<td>Prescribed burning can cause much less damage than (7)______________ and can help a forest (8)______________ by burning only a small part of it.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Paraphrasing & Summarizing

The following pairs of sentences are based on the reading. Complete each paraphrase by filling in the blanks with appropriate words or phrases.

1. Prescribed burning is not an effective method for a number of different reasons.
   → Paraphrase There are a lot of reasons why
   
2. While park rangers insist that they take tremendous precautions, it is still possible for a prescribed burning to rage out of control.
   → Paraphrase Despite the fact that park rangers claim
   
3. Rangers may want to burn one area but instead end up burning additional places because of the unpredictability of forest fires.
   → Paraphrase Sometimes, unpredictable forest fires
   that the park rangers did not

4. It costs a large amount of money to start and control a forest fire.
   → Paraphrase
   can be expensive.

5. When fires start burning uncontrollably, it costs even more money to reign them back in.
   → Paraphrase It can become more expensive to
   once it starts to

Complete the following summary.

Prescribed burning is the practice of starting forest fires (1)_________________________________ and controlling them so that they burn a small area of the forest. This method, however, has some
disadvantages. The first disadvantage is that the fires can sometimes (2)___________________________.
Fires are hard to control, and some prescribed burnings have actually gotten out of control and
burned unintended places. In fact, rangers sometimes wind up (3)__________________________ because they cannot control the fires. The second disadvantage is the cost involved. Paying (4)__________________________ is expensive. Also, when the fires get out of control, it costs a lot
of money to (5)___________________________.

-48-
The following pairs of sentences are based on the lecture. Complete each paraphrase by filling in the blanks with appropriate words or phrases.

1. Some environmentalists actually believe that starting forest fires is effective.
   → Paraphrase According to certain environmentalists, ________________________________.

2. Park rangers are able to manage exactly where the fire burns and even what plants and trees it burns down.
   → Paraphrase Park rangers can ________________________________ that they know which areas will burn and ________________________________.

3. Even if the fire starts burning unpredictably, park rangers have methods to ensure that the fire does not get out of their control and burn the wrong places.
   → Paraphrase Rangers know ________________________________ if it should start burning unpredictably and ________________________________.

4. Natural forest fires can cause up to ten times the damage prescribed burning does.
   → Paraphrase Prescribed burnings ________________________________.

5. By using prescribed burning, authorities can control exactly what gets burned while keeping the fire on a small scale.
   → Paraphrase Prescribed burning enables rangers to ________________________________ while not allowing the fire to ________________________________.

Complete the following summary.

The professor claims that prescribed burning actually has a number of positive benefits. The first one he cites is that (1) ________________________________ are able to control these prescribed burnings. Because they consult with experts, they know exactly how (2) ________________________________. Also, if there is a case where the fire starts to get out of their control, they know a number of different (3) ________________________________. Second of all, the professor claims that natural forest fires (4) ________________________________ the damage that prescribed burnings do. Also, natural fires often damage homes and kill people. However, prescribed burnings can take place on (5) ________________________________, burn down unwanted areas, and help the forest to rejuvenate.
The following sentences are some important points from both the reading and the lecture. Combine each pair of sentences to create your own sentence using the given pattern.

1. **Reading** While park rangers insist that they take tremendous precautions, it is still possible for prescribed burning to rage out of control.
   **Lecture** Park rangers are able to manage exactly where the fire burns and even what plants and trees it burns down.

   → **Combine** In contrast to the reading passage's claim that ________, the professor insists that ________.

2. **Reading** Rangers may want to burn one area but instead end up burning additional places because of the unpredictability of forest fires.
   **Lecture** Even if the fire starts burning unpredictably, park rangers have methods to ensure that the fire does not get out of their control and burn the wrong places.

   → **Combine** The author of the reading passage writes that ________, yet the lecturer states that ________.

3. **Reading** It costs a large amount of money to start and control a forest fire.
   **Lecture** However, natural forest fires can cause up to ten times the damage prescribed burning does and also get into human settlements, burn down houses, and even kill people.

   → **Combine** The author of the reading declares that ________; however, the professor counters that claim by stating that ________.

4. **Reading** Additionally, when fires start burning uncontrollably, it costs even more money to reign them back in.
   **Lecture** By using prescribed burning, authorities can control exactly what gets burned while keeping the fire on a small scale.

   → **Combine** The reading passage states that ________, but the lecturer insists that ________.
Review the notes from the reading and the lecture. Complete the following chart with full sentences.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Introduction</th>
<th>1 The lecturer claims that ________, yet the reading passage declares the opposite.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2 The professor gives several reasons to ________.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Body 1</td>
<td>3 First, in contrast to the claim that ________, the professor says that ________.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>4 He also claims that ________.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>5 Also, the professor states that ________.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>6 This is countered by the reading assertion that ________.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Body 2</td>
<td>7 Second, the lecturer declares that ________.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>8 Meanwhile, the reading says that ________.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>9 The reading also states that ________.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>10 However, the professor mentions that ________.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Conclusion (Optional)</td>
<td>11 The professor and reading clearly disagree with one another with regards to ________.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Because of the dangers of forest fires, some park rangers have started promoting a new way to take care of forests. Their method is called prescribed burning. What they do is actually start fires in forests to burn down various kinds of trees or other plant life. Unfortunately, prescribed burning is not an effective method for a number of different reasons.

First, fires are extremely difficult to control. While park rangers insist that they take tremendous precautions, it is still possible for a prescribed burning to rage out of control. This has actually happened in some cases. Because the rangers could not control the fire, it caused much more damage than a regular forest fire would have. In fact, fire is unpredictable. Rangers may want to burn one area but instead end up burning additional places because of the unpredictability of forest fires.

In addition, prescribed burning is not cheap. It costs a large amount of money to start and control a forest fire. There are numerous people and machines involved in this process, so salaries and equipment costs must be paid. Moreover, when fires start burning uncontrollably, it costs even more money to reign them back in. All things considered, prescribed burning has many disadvantages and should not be practiced.
Summarize the points made in the lecture, being sure to explain how they cast doubt on specific points made in the reading passage.

Check your response.

1. Are all the important points from the lecture presented accurately?  
2. Is the information from the lecture appropriately related to the reading?  
3. Is the response well organized?  
4. Are all the sentences grammatically correct?  
5. Are all the words spelled correctly?  
6. Are all the punctuation marks used correctly?
These days, many schools and research institutions find themselves relying more and more upon educational videos and DVDs. While some purists, preferring to use books, are vehemently against this trend, the reliance upon visual materials is actually a positive thing.

First of all, educational materials are useless if the audience does not pay attention to them. The twenty-first century is a visual age. Students are much more used to watching videos and DVDs than to reading books. By relying upon visual aids, educators are more likely to capture the attention of students. Also, videos and DVDs are more easily able to explain difficult processes or ideas through the use of computer graphics or animation. This quality makes difficult topics much easier to understand, a definite merit that will help students further their education.

Also, videos and DVDs are much cheaper than books. Many visual aids sell for less than ten dollars while books may cost two or three times that amount. Since many students are on tight budgets, this economic benefit will help them considerably. Additionally, many schools only have to purchase one video or DVD as opposed to buying thirty or forty or more copies of the same book. By purchasing visual materials, schools can save considerable amounts of money, which they can use to buy other important materials.

Educational Visual Aids - Effective Educational Tools

1. 21st century = a visual age
   - students - used to (1) → help to capture their attention
   - videos & DVDs - explain concepts with (2) → easier to understand

2. Are not expensive
   - are much cheaper than books → good for students on (3) → use money on other purchases
   - schools can (4) → use money on other purchases
B  Listen to a lecture on the topic you just read about, and complete the note diagram.

Educational Visual Aids - Not as Good as People Believe

1. Provide limited information
   • are incomplete because of (1)
   • are designed for entertainment → cannot explain difficult topics & are (2)

2. Are not really cheaper
   • (3) → expensive ($50-100)
   • must purchase DVD player and TV → additional expenses of (4)

C  Rewrite the main points from both notes as complete sentences.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Educational Visual Aids</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Reading (Main Points)</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Educational visual aids can both (1) ___________ and (2) ___________ by using computer graphics or animation.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Visual aids are (3) ___________, which can be helpful to students on tight budgets, and schools only need (4) ___________, so they can spend their money on other necessities.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
The following pairs of sentences are based on the reading. Complete each paraphrase by filling in the blanks with appropriate words or phrases.

1. While some purists, preferring to use books, are vehemently against this trend, the reliance upon visual materials is actually a positive thing.

   → Paraphrase: Despite the fact that ____________________________, they are actually beneficial to use.

2. By relying upon visual aids, educators are more likely to capture the attention of students.

   → Paraphrase: Teachers can ____________________________ if they ____________________________.

3. Videos and DVDs are more easily able to explain difficult processes or ideas through the use of computer graphics or animation.

   → Paraphrase: Since they use graphics and animation, visual aids can ____________________________.

4. Many visual aids sell for less than ten dollars while books may cost two or three times that amount.

   → Paraphrase: The price of books ____________________________.

5. By purchasing visual materials, schools can save considerable amounts of money, which they can use to buy other important materials.

   → Paraphrase: Because schools will ____________________________ by purchasing visual aids, they can use the money to ____________________________.

Complete the following summary.

The use of (1) ___________ like DVDs and videotapes is something positive even though some people oppose them. The first reason given is that most students are used to watching videos instead of reading books. Therefore, the teachers can (2) ___________ more easily. Also, these visual aids can make difficult concepts (3) ___________ by using graphics and animation. Second of all, the price of visual aids is much lower than that of books. This is good for students (4) ___________ and for schools since the schools can buy just one DVD or tape and use the leftover money for (5) ___________.
I must inform you that books are still much better than watching visual aids.

Paraphrase: It is preferable to _________________.

The video is likely to be incomplete and not contain all the necessary information.

Paraphrase: Visual materials _________________.

Visual materials are often designed more for entertainment than education.

Paraphrase: Entertaining, not educating, is _________________.

Tapes and disks of movies are often rather cheap, but this isn’t the case for educational materials.

Paraphrase: Educational visual materials are _________________.

Even if you own a DVD, you still have to purchase the DVD player and television set, which aren’t cheap.

Paraphrase: Without _________________, you cannot watch a DVD.

The professor feels that ________________ is a much preferable alternative to watching visual materials like DVDs and videotapes. First, she states that visual materials often provide ________________ because they have to be so short. Books, on the other hand, hold much more information. Also, visual materials tend to simplify things since they are more interested in ________________ instead of educating them. Also, the professor says that books are actually cheaper than DVDs and videotapes. The reason is that ________________ can be much more expensive than movies. Also, a person with a DVD needs to purchase ________________, which will cost more money to keep up.
Synthesizing & Organizing

The following sentences are some important points from both the reading and the lecture. Combine each pair of sentences to create your own sentence using the given pattern.

1. Reading  By relying upon visual aids, educators are more likely to capture the attention of students.
   Lecture  Therefore, the video is likely to be incomplete and not contain all the necessary information.
   → Combine The author of the reading declares that_________________________________________________________; however, the professor counters by saying that_________________________________________________________.

2. Reading  Also, videos and DVDs are more easily able to explain difficult processes or ideas through the use of computer graphics or animation.
   Lecture  In addition, visual materials are often designed more for entertainment than education.
   → Combine The reading mentions that_________________________________________________________; yet the professor believes_________________________________________________________.

3. Reading  Many visual aids sell for less than ten dollars while books may cost two or three times that amount.
   Lecture  Educational visual aids are almost always very pricey, costing between fifty to one hundred dollars.
   → Combine In contrast to the reading, which states that_________________________________________________________, the professor claims that_________________________________________________________.

4. Reading  By purchasing visual materials, schools can save considerable amounts of money, which they can use to buy other important materials.
   Lecture  Also, even if you own a DVD, you still have to purchase the DVD player and television set, which aren’t cheap.
   → Combine While the reading passage mentions that_________________________________________________________, the professor states that_________________________________________________________.

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Review the notes from the reading and the lecture. Complete the following chart with full sentences.

| Introduction | 1. The lecturer declares that |
| 2. This is in direct contrast to the reading passage, which claims |
| Body 1       | 3. First, the lecturer states that |
|             | 4. She says that videos are only a couple of hours long, so |
|             | 5. The author of the reading, meanwhile, claims that |
|             | 6. Also, the reading states that |
|             | 7. The professor, however, says that |
| Body 2       | 8. Second of all, the lecturer declares |
|             | The reading, however, claims the opposite. |
|             | 9. Also, the lecturer says that |
|             | yet the reading claims |
|             | 10. The reading further says that |
|             | 11. But the lecturer states that |
| Conclusion (Optional) | 12. The professor and reading passage stand on opposite sides of the debate over |
These days, many schools and research institutions find themselves relying more and more upon educational videos and DVDs. While some purists, preferring to use books, are vehemently against this trend, the reliance upon visual materials is actually a positive thing.

First of all, educational materials are useless if the audience does not pay attention to them. The twenty-first century is a visual age. Students are much more used to watching videos and DVDs than to reading books. By relying upon visual aids, educators are more likely to capture the attention of students. Also, videos and DVDs are more easily able to explain difficult processes or ideas through the use of computer graphics or animation. This quality makes difficult topics much easier to understand, a definite merit that will help students further their education.

Also, videos and DVDs are much cheaper than books. Many visual aids sell for less than ten dollars while books may cost two or three times that amount. Since many students are on tight budgets, this economic benefit will help them considerably. Additionally, many schools only have to purchase one video or DVD as opposed to buying thirty or forty or more copies of the same book. By purchasing visual materials, schools can save considerable amounts of money, which they can use to buy other important materials.
A Summarize the points made in the lecture, being sure to explain how they cast doubt on specific points made in the reading passage.

B Check your response.

1 Are all the important points from the lecture presented accurately?  
2 Is the information from the lecture appropriately related to the reading?  
3 Is the response well organized?  
4 Are all the sentences grammatically correct?  
5 Are all the words spelled correctly?  
6 Are all the punctuation marks used correctly?
Chapter 2

Problem-Solution

Unit 6 _ Business
Unit 7 _ Education
Unit 8 _ Environment
In recent years, companies have begun noticing that a large percentage of their employees are not waiting until their sixties to retire. Instead, they are opting for early retirement and are leaving the workforce while they are still in their fifties. After conducting several studies, companies have recognized a couple of reasons for this sudden spate of early retirements by their employees.

To begin with, many employees who are in their fifties have been working for the same employer and doing the same jobs for many years or even decades. What happens is that they simply become burned out from doing the same tasks over and over again. Furthermore, they discover that their daily routines are no longer challenging but have instead become incredibly boring for them.

Second of all, many older people compare themselves with their company's younger employees. When this comparison happens, the results are typically not favorable. Older employees are simply unable to maintain the same pace as younger ones; therefore, the older individuals see themselves accomplishing less work than their younger colleagues. In addition, older workers begin to feel as if they are a burden on the company and are not contributing as much as they could. This self-accusing feeling then encourages them to depart their company and take early retirement.

---

**Early Retirement of Employees in Their Fifties**

1. Have worked for the same company for many years
   - become (1) __________________ from doing their jobs
   - discover their (2) __________________ are boring

2. Compare themselves with younger employees
   - (3) __________________ than younger ones
   - feel like they are (4) __________________
B  Listen to a lecture on the topic you just read about, and complete the note diagram.

Ways to Ensure Elderly Employees' Usefulness

1. Give them part-time jobs
   - would not have to come in every day → won't (1) 
   - will have fresh minds → won't (2) 

2. Utilize their experience
   - provide them with (3) 
   - consult them more often → makes them (4) & can draw upon their experience

C  Rewrite the main points from both notes as complete sentences.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Early Retirement for Elderly Employees</th>
<th>Listening (Solutions)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Reading (Problems)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Employees at the same jobs for many years become (1) ______________________ and also (2) ______________________ by doing the same tasks again and again.</td>
<td>It is recommended that companies hire elderly employees on (5) ______________________ to keep them from becoming too (6) ______________________ and to keep them interested in their work.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Older employees believe that they (3) ______________________ than younger employees and therefore feel they are (4) ______________________.</td>
<td>Companies need to utilize (7) ______________________ by giving them various tasks and also (8) ______________________ on a more regular basis.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
The following pairs of sentences are based on the reading. Complete each paraphrase by filling in the blanks with appropriate words or phrases.

1. In recent years, companies have begun noticing that a large percentage of their employees are not waiting until their sixties to retire.

   → Paraphrase: Nowadays, it has come to companies’ attention that ____________________________.

2. Many employees who are in their fifties have been working for the same employer and doing the same jobs for many years or even decades.

   → Paraphrase: ____________________________ have remained employed by their companies and made to do the same tasks for ____________________________.

3. What happens is that older employees simply become burned out from doing the same tasks over and over again.

   → Paraphrase: Doing the same jobs repeatedly makes older workers ____________________________.

4. Many older people compare themselves with their company’s younger employees.

   → Paraphrase: Elderly employees are often ____________________________.

5. Older employees are simply unable to maintain the same pace as younger ones; therefore, the older individuals see themselves accomplishing less work than their younger colleagues.

   → Paraphrase: The elderly have trouble ____________________________, which gives them the feeling that ____________________________.

Complete the following summary.

Companies have long wondered why many of their workers began (1) ______ as opposed to their sixties, and now they have a couple of reasons as to why. First, many elderly employees (2) ______ after doing the same jobs day after day for very long periods of time. They simply quit because they cannot handle the boredom of their work. Second, elderly workers recognize that they are (3) ______ by younger employees, which causes their opinions of their value to the company to decline. Realizing they are not (4) ______ as they could be and that they are (5) ______ their employers with their presence, they simply quit their jobs.
The following pairs of sentences are based on the lecture. Complete each paraphrase by filling in the blanks with appropriate words or phrases.

1. I'd like to continue talking about how society underutilizes its elderly population.
   → Paraphrase: Let me carry on with some examples as to ________________.

2. A large number of elderly people would be willing to work part-time.
   → Paraphrase: Lots of older people would ________________.

3. Letting the elderly work part-time would keep their minds fresh, which means that they wouldn’t become bored with their work.
   → Paraphrase: By only working part-time, ________________.

4. I know all of you young people think that you know everything, but your experiences are nothing compared to those of a fifty- or sixty-year-old person.
   → Paraphrase: Many people in their teens and twenties ________________, but ________________ in comparison to those more than twice their age.

5. Being consulted by the company would not only make elderly workers feel wanted but also draw upon their many years of experience working at the company.
   → Paraphrase: The effects of being consulted would be ________________, and also ________________ that have built up by their long years of employment.

Complete the following summary.

The professor believes that it is pointless for people in their fifties to retire and not work anymore, so she provides some suggestions to get people to ________________. She thinks that instead of working full-time, elderly people should be allowed to ________________. This measure would keep the employees ________________ to do their jobs. Also, companies should try to involve their elderly employees in more activities and ask them for ________________ on various things. This effort would give elderly workers the confidence they require and, at the same time, also help their companies by having them rely upon people with ________________.
The following sentences are some important points from both the reading and the lecture. Combine each pair of sentences to create your own sentence using the given pattern.

1 Reading What happens is that older employees simply become burned out from doing the same tasks over and over again.
Lecture However, a large number would be willing to work part-time.
→ Combine The author of the reading passage claims that ____________________________, so the professor suggests ____________________________.

2 Reading Furthermore, older employees discover that their daily routines are no longer challenging but have instead become incredibly boring for them.
Lecture Also, letting the elderly work part-time would keep their minds fresh, which means that they wouldn't become bored with their work.
→ Combine The problem in the reading is that ____________________________, so the professor suggests that ____________________________.

3 Reading Older employees are simply unable to maintain the same pace as younger ones; therefore, the older individuals see themselves accomplishing less work than their younger colleagues.
Lecture For example, companies could give elderly employees a wider range of duties instead of making them repeat tasks over and over.
→ Combine In the reading, the author suggests that ____________________________; however, the professor suggests ____________________________.

4 Reading In addition, older workers begin to feel as if they are a burden on the company and are not contributing as much as they could.
Lecture And the companies could consult with their elderly employees more often.
→ Combine The author of the reading passage mentions that ____________________________, so the lecturer mentions that ____________________________.
Review the notes from the reading and the lecture. Complete the following chart with full sentences.

| Introduction | 1 The reading passage mentions a couple of reasons as to _____________________________. |
|             | 2 The professor provides a couple of solutions for _____________________________. |
| Body 1      | 3 The first problem the reading mentions is that _____________________________. |
|             | 4 So the professor believes _____________________________. |
|             | 5 Also, working part-time will keep the elderly from _____________________________. |
| Body 2      | 6 Another problem leading to early retirement is that _____________________________. |
|             | 7 Therefore, the professor suggests that _____________________________. |
|             | 8 Additionally, companies could consult elderly employees _____________________________. |
|             | 9 By doing so, companies could make their older employees feel as though _____________________________. |
| Conclusion  | 10 In conclusion, _____________________________. |
| (Optional)  |
In recent years, companies have begun noticing that a large percentage of their employees are not waiting until their sixties to retire. Instead, they are opting for early retirement and are leaving the workforce while they are still in their fifties. After conducting several studies, companies have recognized a couple of reasons for this sudden spate of early retirements by their employees.

To begin with, many employees who are in their fifties have been working for the same employer and doing the same jobs for many years or even decades. What happens is that they simply become burned out from doing the same tasks over and over again. Furthermore, they discover that their daily routines are no longer challenging but have instead become incredibly boring for them.

Second of all, many older people compare themselves with their company's younger employees. When this comparison happens, the results are typically not favorable. Older employees are simply unable to maintain the same pace as younger ones; therefore, the older individuals see themselves accomplishing less work than their younger colleagues. In addition, older workers begin to feel as if they are a burden on the company and are not contributing as much as they could. This self-accusing feeling then encourages them to depart their company and take early retirement.
A  Summarize the points made in the lecture, being sure to specifically explain how they answer the problems raised in the reading passage.

---

B  Check your response.

1  Are all the important points from the lecture presented accurately?  Yes  No
2  Is the information from the lecture appropriately related to the reading?  □  □
3  Is the response well organized?  □  □
4  Are all the sentences grammatically correct?  □  □
5  Are all the words spelled correctly?  □  □
6  Are all the punctuation marks used correctly?  □  □
Nowadays, many universities are raising their students' tuition. In some cases, the raises are quite substantial. While many students are not pleased with these increases, there are some legitimate reasons for the hikes.

First, universities are constantly striving to upgrade their educational quality. Since fewer people are attending college these days, schools must fight for all the students they can get. One ideal way to attract students is to ensure that the school provides them with an outstanding education. Also, by increasing the school’s academic rank, the school will attract both more students and better ones. Since it costs money to enhance the quality of education, the school’s budget must increase. Therefore, tuition must also go up.

Second, many universities are finding themselves short of cash these days. This is particularly true of state universities, which often depend upon the state for the majority of their budgets. Unfortunately, many states are cutting general funding to schools. Most particularly hard hit are the funds for the general management of the university. While not necessarily a glamorous job, it is crucial to the well-being of the school. Without sufficient general management funds, many schools would be facing serious problems, so they need to compensate for the lost funds in other ways. It is therefore obvious why schools are increasing tuition every year.

University Tuition Increases
1. Need to improve school to attract students
   - must provide (1) [Blank] → costs more money
   - must increase (2) [Blank] → need higher budget

2. Are often short of cash
   - (3) [Blank] getting funding cut → must make up for lost cash
   - (4) [Blank] losing funds → schools facing serious problems

substantial [a] large; considerable
legitimate [a] reasonable; justifiable; valid
hike [n] an increase; a raise
constantly [ad] continuously
strive [v] to struggle; to attempt
ensure [v] to guarantee
outstanding [a] excellent; extremely good
enhance [v] to improve
compensate for [phr] to make up for
glamorous [a] exciting; attractive
### Universities Don’t Need Money to Raise Quality

#### 1. Other ways to improve school
- professors - lecture better and develop students
- students - in and out of class

#### 2. Ties with corporations
- schools get useful to students and faculty
- companies can from school body

### Rewrite the main points from both notes as complete sentences.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>University Tuition Increases</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Reading (Problems)</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Schools need more money to improve and increase the school's if they want to attract more and better students.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Schools are getting cut as well as seeing less funding go to their general management, so they have to make up for this loss with .</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Paraphrasing & Summarizing

The following pairs of sentences are based on the reading. Complete each paraphrase by filling in the blanks with appropriate words or phrases.

1. While many students are not pleased with tuition increases, there are some legitimate reasons for these hikes.
   → Paraphrase  even though schools have some good reasons for .

2. Since fewer people are attending college these days, schools must fight for all the students they can get.
   → Paraphrase  since not as many students are going to school as there used to be.

3. By increasing the school's academic rank, the school will attract both more students and better ones.
   → Paraphrase  Good students will be more interested in .

4. Unfortunately, many states are cutting general funding to schools, meaning that the schools must compensate for these lost funds in other ways.
   → Paraphrase  Because the schools need to .

5. While not necessarily a glamorous job, the general management of the university is crucial to the well-being of the school.
   → Paraphrase  The department that but, without it, the school would .

A-2 Complete the following summary.

Even though students at universities are not pleased about (1) the schools have some good reasons for doing so. First, they have to improve themselves academically to (3) especially since fewer students are going to college nowadays. This requires money. So does raising the school's (3) which will in turn attract better students to the school. Also, a lot of schools receive funding from (4) . However, they are receiving less funding nowadays. Also, at these schools need enough money to run properly, or else the school will suffer. The schools therefore need to raise tuition to get more money.
The following pairs of sentences are based on the lecture. Complete each paraphrase by filling in the blanks with appropriate words or phrases.

1. Running a college is getting to be too expensive, but there are a few ways to offset this without raising students' fees.
   → Paraphrase: Even though maintaining a school ________ school can still manage ________.

2. Professors and students should be looking at themselves to improve their school.
   → Paraphrase: The members of the school body, including ________, should be able to ________.

3. Students performing better would help increase their school's ranking without spending much money or raising tuition.
   → Paraphrase: An inexpensive way to ________.

4. The universities will get free state-of-the-art facilities, which both students and faculty will be able to use.
   → Paraphrase: The schools will be able to ________, which can be accessed by ________.

5. And the corporations will know the students got an excellent education because they helped contribute to it.
   → Paraphrase: Since the companies ________, they will ________.

Complete the following summary.

It actually is possible for universities to increase ________ that they offer without having to raise students' tuition. First, both the ________ can improve themselves. The faculty can teach and prepare for classes better, and the students can improve their performance as well. These actions should increase the school's ________ without a need for a tuition hike. Also, schools should strike agreements with corporations. The corporations can provide the schools with ________.

The schools in turn will produce well-educated students that the companies will then be able to ________ ________ ________. This will also help schools avoid raising the cost of tuition.
Synthesizing & Organizing

The following sentences are some important points from both the reading and the lecture. Combine each pair of sentences to create your own sentence using the given pattern.

1. Reading: One ideal way to attract students is to ensure that the school provides them with an outstanding education.
   Lecture: Professors could augment the quality of their lectures as well as develop better curriculums.
   → Combine: The reading passage mentions that __________________________, so the professor responds by claiming that __________________________.

2. Reading: Also, by increasing the school’s academic rank, the school will attract both more students and better ones.
   Lecture: And you, the students, could perform better both at school and after graduation.
   → Combine: The writer claims that __________________________, which leads the professor to declare that __________________________.

3. Reading: Unfortunately, many states are cutting general funding to schools, meaning that the schools must compensate for these lost funds in other ways.
   Lecture: We should seek close ties with corporations.
   → Combine: In response to the reading passage author’s claim that __________________________, the professor responds by saying that __________________________.

4. Reading: Most particularly hard hit are the funds for the general management of the university.
   Lecture: First, we’ll get free state-of-the-art facilities, which both students and faculty will be able to use.
   → Combine: The writer claims that __________________________, so the lecturer states that __________________________.
Review the notes from the reading and the lecture. Complete the following chart with full sentences.

| Introduction | 1 | The lecturer states that
| | 2 | He then __________________________ as to how they can do this. |
| Body 1 | 3 | First, responding to the claim that __________________________, the lecturer claims that __________________________. |
| | 4 | He also mentions that __________________________. |
| | 5 | With a better academic rating, the school will __________________________. |
| Body 2 | 6 | Also, since schools are seeing __________________________, the professor urges __________________________. |
| | 7 | He claims __________________________. |
| | 8 | These facilities will __________________________. |
| | 9 | The companies will also __________________________. |
| Conclusion (Optional) | 10 | If a school follows the professor’s suggestions, __________________________. |
Nowadays, many universities are raising their students' tuition. In some cases, the raises are quite substantial. While many students are not pleased with these increases, there are some legitimate reasons for the hikes.

First, universities are constantly striving to upgrade their educational quality. Since fewer people are attending college these days, schools must fight for all the students they can get. One ideal way to attract students is to ensure that the school provides them with an outstanding education. Also, by increasing the school's academic rank, the school will attract both more students and better ones. Since it costs money to enhance the quality of education, the school's budget must increase. Therefore, tuition must also go up.

Second, many universities are finding themselves short of cash these days. This is particularly true of state universities, which often depend upon the state for the majority of their budgets. Unfortunately, many states are cutting general funding to schools. Most particularly hard hit are the funds for the general management of the university. While not necessarily a glamorous job, it is crucial to the well-being of the school. Without sufficient general management funds, many schools would be facing serious problems, so they need to compensate for the lost funds in other ways. It is therefore obvious why schools are increasing tuition every year.
Summarize the points made in the lecture, being sure to specifically explain how they answer the problems raised in the reading passage.

Check your response.

1. Are all the important points from the lecture presented accurately?
2. Is the information from the lecture appropriately related to the reading?
3. Is the response well organized?
4. Are all the sentences grammatically correct?
5. Are all the words spelled correctly?
6. Are all the punctuation marks used correctly?
Invasive species cause most of the worst problems in local ecosystems. The presence of a new species, particularly one at the top of the food chain, can destroy an ecosystem and cause numerous species to become extinct. One species that is causing numerous problems in America's waterways is the aquatic zebra mussel.

Native to Russia, the zebra mussel has recently invaded the Great Lakes and many other American lakes and rivers. The mussels attach themselves to the bottoms of boats, a convenient method that lets them travel easily. They also often attach themselves to water pipes. This action results in clogged pipes, some of which are used to bring drinking water to cities. The blocked pipes cost the cities huge amounts of money to unblock. Also, zebra mussels reproduce so rapidly that they often smother the spawning grounds of various fish and other mussels, thereby prohibiting their growth.

Additionally, zebra mussels in North America have very few natural enemies, meaning that it is difficult to eliminate them once they are established in a river or lake. Likewise, scientists have yet to discover an environmentally-safe way to kill the zebra mussels. These two facts help contribute to the extremely rapid expansion of the zebra mussel. Should this expansion not be stopped, zebra mussels will soon be causing problems in virtually all of the country's waterways.

Invasive Zebra Mussels

1. Have left Russia and invaded waterways in United States
   - (1) __________  → costs lots of money to unblock
   - (2) __________  → smother spawning grounds of other species

2. Are difficult to remove
   - have few (3) __________  
   - no (4) __________  to kill them  → expand rapidly
How to Get Rid of Zebra Mussels

1. Decontaminate ships better
   - check the entire ship b/c mussels can (2) ____________
   - with sea water → kills mussels
   - (1) ____________

2. Use predators to kill zebra mussels
   - some (3) ____________ eat them → will get rid of mussels
   - researchers need to increase predators' numbers → will start to (4) ____________

C  Rewrite the main points from both notes as complete sentences.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Zebra Mussels</th>
<th>Listening (Solutions)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Reading (Problems)</strong></td>
<td><strong>Before entering a waterway, ships' crews should (5) ____________ with salt water, and they must (6) ____________ since mussels can survive for days out of water.</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Zebra mussels have (1) ____________, where they clog water pipes and (2) ____________ of various fish and other mussels.</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The zebra mussels have few (3) ____________, and there are no (4) ____________ to kill them, so scientists have not been able to reduce their numbers.</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Listening (Solutions)</strong></td>
<td><strong>There are (7) ____________ that eat the mussels, so scientists must introduce them to the area and get their numbers to grow quickly so they can (8) ____________.</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Paraphrasing & Summarizing

A-1 The following pairs of sentences are based on the reading. Complete each paraphrase by filling in the blanks with appropriate words or phrases.

1 The presence of a new species, particularly one at the top of the food chain, can destroy an ecosystem and cause numerous species to become extinct.
   → Paraphrase When a top predator appears in a new environment, ____________________________ .

2 Native to Russia, the zebra mussel has recently invaded the Great Lakes and many other American lakes and rivers.
   → Paraphrase While it comes from Russia, the zebra mussel ____________________________ .

3 Zebra mussels reproduce so rapidly that they often smother the spawning grounds of various fish and other mussels, thereby prohibiting their growth.
   → Paraphrase Since zebra mussels ____________________________ , they can ____________________________ , which keeps these species from growing larger in number.

4 Zebra mussels in North America have very few natural enemies, meaning that it is difficult to eliminate them once they are established in a river or lake.
   → Paraphrase In North America, the zebra mussel ____________________________ , which makes it difficult to ____________________________ .

5 Should this expansion not be stopped, zebra mussels will soon be causing problems in virtually all of the country’s waterways.
   → Paraphrase If zebra mussels continue to expand their territories, ____________________________ .

A-2 Complete the following summary.

When an invasive species moves into a new environment, it often causes problems for some native species, even causing them to (1) ____________________________ . This is the case for the zebra mussel. Coming from Russia, the mussel rode on boats to get to America. There, it (2) ____________________________ , which are expensive to unblock. Also, it reproduces so rapidly that it covers up (3) ____________________________ of other species, making these species reproduce more slowly. It is difficult to remove the mussels because they have few (4) ____________________________ in North America. In addition, there is no (5) ____________________________ to kill them. If the mussels are not killed, they will soon expand to all of America’s waterways.
The following pairs of sentences are based on the lecture. Complete each paraphrase by filling in the blanks with appropriate words or phrases.

1. While the zebra mussel is causing problems, there are a couple of methods that could help mitigate the damage it's causing.
   - Paraphrase: There are some ways to ___________________________.

2. Before a boat enters a lake or river system, the ship's ballast should be sterilized with sea water, which kills the mussels.
   - Paraphrase: The crew needs to ___________________________.

3. Zebra mussels can survive out of water for several days, so the anchor chains and other parts out of water need to be decontaminated as well.
   - Paraphrase: Zebra mussels do not always live in the water, so crews need to ___________________________.

4. There are some species of birds and fish that eat zebra mussels.
   - Paraphrase: ___________________________.

5. Researchers must discover a way quickly to increase the numbers of these species in the hope that they will start to make a dent in the number of mussels.
   - Paraphrase: If scientists can ___________________________, these animals will be able to ___________________________.

Complete the following summary.

While the zebra mussel has caused extremely expensive amounts of damage to ___________________________, there are some ways to control their numbers. First, crew members on ships can do a couple of things. They can fill the ship's ballast ___________________________ since that will kill them. Also, they should check the entire ship for mussels because they can ________________ for a few days. In addition, there are ________________ that will prey upon the zebra mussels. These should be introduced to the waterways. Finally, since there are not enough of these predators, people need to make sure they ___________________________. These solutions can then reduce the number of zebra mussels.
Synthesizing & Organizing

A The following sentences are some important points from both the reading and the lecture. Combine each pair of sentences to create your own sentence using the given pattern.

1 Reading The mussels attach themselves to the bottoms of boats, a convenient method that lets them travel easily.
Lecture Before a boat enters a lake or river system, the ship's ballast should be sterilized with sea water, which kills the mussels.

→ Combine The reading passage author writes that __________________________, so the professor responds by arguing that __________________________.

2 Reading Also, zebra mussels reproduce so rapidly that they often smother the spawning grounds of various fish and other mussels, thereby prohibiting their growth.
Lecture Zebra mussels can survive out of water for several days, so the anchor chains and other parts out of water need to be decontaminated as well.

→ Combine According to the professor, __________________________, so that the mussels will not __________________________, just like the reading passage described.

3 Reading Additionally, zebra mussels in North America have very few natural enemies, meaning that it is difficult to eliminate them once they are established in a river or lake.
Lecture The natural predators of the zebra mussel should be introduced to the waterways.

→ Combine As a response to the reading passage claim that __________________________, the professor mentions that __________________________.

4 Reading Likewise, scientists have yet to discover an environmentally-safe way to kill the zebra mussels.
Lecture Researchers must discover a way quickly to increase the numbers of these natural predators in the hope that they will start to make a dent in the number of mussels.

→ Combine Because __________________________, the professor declares that __________________________.
B Review the notes from the reading and the lecture. Complete the following chart with full sentences.

| Introduction | 1 The professor talks about different ways to __________________________. |
| 2 This is an invasive species from Russia that __________________________. |
| 3 The professor provides __________________________. |
| Body 1 | 4 First, he notes that __________________________. |
| 5 He mentions this because __________________________. |
| 6 Also, the professor notes that __________________________. |
| 7 This will keep the mussels from __________________________. |
| Body 2 | 8 Second, the professor notes that __________________________. |
| 9 While the reading claims that __________________________, the professor claims __________________________. |
| 10 He also thinks __________________________. |
| 11 This will be beneficial because __________________________. |
| Conclusion (Optional) | 12 Although the zebra mussel is causing many problems, the professor seems confident that __________________________. |
Invasive species cause most of the worst problems in local ecosystems. The presence of a new species, particularly one at the top of the food chain, can destroy an ecosystem and cause numerous species to become extinct. One species that is causing numerous problems in America's waterways is the aquatic zebra mussel.

Native to Russia, the zebra mussel has recently invaded the Great Lakes and many other American lakes and rivers. The mussels attach themselves to the bottoms of boats, a convenient method that lets them travel easily. They also often attach themselves to water pipes. This action results in clogged pipes, some of which are used to bring drinking water to cities. The blocked pipes cost the cities huge amounts of money to unblock. Also, zebra mussels reproduce so rapidly that they often smother the spawning grounds of various fish and other mussels, thereby prohibiting their growth.

Additionally, zebra mussels in North America have very few natural enemies, meaning that it is difficult to eliminate them once they are established in a river or lake. Likewise, scientists have yet to discover an environmentally-safe way to kill the zebra mussels. These two facts help contribute to the extremely rapid expansion of the zebra mussel. Should this expansion not be stopped, zebra mussels will soon be causing problems in virtually all of the country's waterways.
A Summarize the points made in the lecture, being sure to specifically explain how they answer the problems raised in the reading passage.

B Check your response.

1. Are all the important points from the lecture presented accurately? □ □
2. Is the information from the lecture appropriately related to the reading? □ □
3. Is the response well organized? □ □
4. Are all the sentences grammatically correct? □ □
5. Are all the words spelled correctly? □ □
6. Are all the punctuation marks used correctly? □ □
PART 2 Independent Writing

- Chapter 3 Agree / Disagree
  Unit 9 Living & Thinking
  Unit 10 Culture & Leisure
  Unit 11 School & Education I
  Unit 12 School & Education II
  Unit 13 Environment & Science

- Chapter 4 Preference
  Unit 14 Family & Society
  Unit 15 Environment & Technology
  Unit 16 Business & Economy
**Overview**

- **Introduction**
  The second part of the Writing section of the TOEFL® iBT is the Independent Writing Task. In this task, you will be asked a question and then allowed 30 minutes to write an essay in response to the question. A typical essay will be about 300 words, though there is no maximum limit on the length of the essay.

**Agree / Disagree**

This is the predominant question type that has almost always occurred in the Independent Writing on the real TOEFL® iBT thus far. This question asks you to determine whether you agree or disagree with an issue and to support your position with appropriate reasons and examples.

**Preference**

This is a type of question that has occurred on the real TOEFL® iBT only a few times until now. This question mentions a topic and then asks you to state which of the two options you prefer and to support your choice with appropriate reasons and examples.

- **Question Types**

  1. **Agree / Disagree**
     - Do you agree or disagree with the following statement?
     
     [A sentence or sentences that present an issue]
     
     Use specific reasons and examples to support your answer.
     
     *cf. This question type accounts for almost all of the essay topics that have been asked on the TOEFL® iBT so far.*

  2. **Preference**
     - Some people say X. Others believe Y. Which opinion do you agree with? Use specific reasons and examples to support your answer.
     - Some people do X. Others do Y. Which… do you think is better? Use specific reasons and examples to support your opinion.
Useful Tips

1. Agree / Disagree
   You should clearly state whether you agree or disagree with the given statement. Next, you should determine at least two main points which support your position. Then, you should provide specific reasons why the main points are valid as well as examples which support the main points.

2. Preference
   You should clearly express which of the two options you feel more strongly about. Then, you should decide on at least two major points which support your choice. You should also provide reasons which support your main points. Finally, you should include specific examples which will bolster your main arguments.

Key Strategies

1. Understanding the Question
   - Read the question carefully, and make sure you understand exactly what it is asking.
   - Refer back to the question during your pre-writing and writing.

2. Brainstorming & Outlining
   - Brainstorm ideas on scratch paper before you begin writing.
   - Organize your main points in outline form.
   - Develop your outline into full sentences and paragraphs.

4. Writing the Thesis Statement & Topic Sentences
   - Make sure your thesis is clearly stated in your introductory paragraph.
   - Make sure your topic sentences support your thesis statement.

5. Writing the Details
   - Make sure your ideas are only about the original topic. Do not include details that are not relevant to the topic simply to make the essay longer.
   - Use the details to unify the essay and to give it coherence.

6. Completing & Checking Your Essay
   - Finish your writing with at least 5 minutes remaining in the task.
   - Reread your essay, and make any necessary revisions.
Sample iBT Question

Directions Read the question below. You have 30 minutes to plan, write, and revise your essay. Typically, an effective response will contain a minimum of 300 words.

Question Do you agree or disagree with the following statement? People learn more from their peers than those older than them. Use specific reasons and examples to support your answer.

[Opening sentence] There is no question that our peers are a major influence on our lives. [Thesis statement] However, when it comes to learning valuable lessons about life, we learn much more from older people than our peers.

[Topic sentence 1] Unlike our peers, older people have a better understanding of life because they have already been through it, and we can benefit more from their seasoned knowledge. [General statement 1] Older people, not our peers, are in the enviable position of seeing the past with greater clarity, which can teach us important lessons. [Example 1] For example, I have learned more about the importance of a good education from my uncle than from my friends at school. Many of my friends rarely study and just use their time to have fun. However, my uncle has taught me that if I focus on studying instead of playing all the time, my life will be more fulfilling later on. [Closing sentence] Without his advice, I would not have such a mature perspective for someone my age.

[Topic sentence 2] Also, older people can steer us in the right direction and away from mistakes they have already made. [General statement 2] If we simply follow our peers, we will often experience similar pitfalls; however, we can avoid them if we listen and learn from our elders. [Example 2] For instance, when my brother tried out for the football team last year and did not make it, many of his peers told him to give up on the sport forever. But my father helped him realize that giving up on something was not the answer. So my brother practiced harder instead of abandoning the sport. This year, not only did he make the team, but he was also the captain. [Closing sentence] Ultimately, older people can help us make the right decisions when we face failure or adversary.

[Summary] In conclusion, people learn more from older people than their peers because they have more life experience, and they can give excellent, more mature advice. [Final comment] In this way, older people can be the biggest, most positive influence in our lives.
Agree / Disagree

Unit 9 _ Living & Thinking
Unit 10 _ Culture & Leisure
Unit 11 _ School & Education I
Unit 12 _ School & Education II
Unit 13 _ Environment & Science
Understanding the Topic

Read the essay topic, and answer the following questions in words or phrases.

Do you agree or disagree with the following statement?

Nowadays, people put too much emphasis on personal appearance and fashion.

Use specific reasons and examples to support your answer.

1. What is "too much emphasis on personal appearance and fashion"?
   Being concerned with how one looks more than anything else

2. What are the advantages of putting a lot of emphasis on personal appearance and fashion?
   Can help with career → get good job
   Can increase self-esteem → gain confidence

3. What examples can you give about the advantages of putting emphasis on personal appearance and fashion?
   Brother got competitive job because of his attention to his appearance
   Brother was overweight and began to work out → became happier and more confident

4. What are the disadvantages of putting too much emphasis on personal appearance?

5. What examples can you give about placing too much emphasis on appearance?
Brainstorming

Based on your answers to the above questions, complete the brainstorming map.

- **Too much emphasis on personal appearance & fashion**
  - **Agree**
    - e.g. exercise made brother happier & more confident
    - older brother got job because of his attention to his appearance
  - **Disagree**
    - gain confidence in oneself
    - increase self-esteem
    - good appearance → valuable
    - helps get good job

1. 
2. 
3. 
4. 
5. 
6.
Outlining

Look at the brainstorming map, and complete your outline.

A  Suggested Outline (Disagree)

1. A good appearance is valuable.
   - helps people get good jobs
   - e.g. boss told older brother he landed job because he took special care in how he looked

2. Increases self-esteem
   - people feel better about themselves when they look good
   - e.g. brother once overweight → now happier and more confident from daily exercise

B  Your Outline (Agree)

1. _____________________________
   - _____________________________
   - e.g. _____________________________

2. _____________________________
   - _____________________________
   - e.g. _____________________________
Writing the Thesis Statement & Topic Sentences

Based on your outline above, express the main ideas in full sentences.

A  Suggested Position (Disagree)

Introduction
Thesis statement  It is crucial for people to pay close attention to their appearance.

Body
Topic sentence 1  Having a good appearance can be valuable to an individual when he is looking for a job.

Topic sentence 2  If a person emphasizes his appearance, he can improve his self-esteem.

Conclusion
Summary  It is good that people pay more attention to their appearance because it will help them secure better jobs and improve how they feel about themselves.

B  Your Position (Agree)

Introduction
Thesis statement

Body
Topic sentence 1

Topic sentence 2

Conclusion
Summary
A Sample Essay (Disagree)

[Opening sentence] Our modern society is highly competitive, so people need to use every opportunity to get ahead in life. [Thesis statement] For this reason, it is crucial for people to pay close attention to their appearance. This includes both the way they look and the clothes they wear.

[Topic sentence 1] To begin with, having a good appearance can be valuable to an individual when he is looking for a job. [General statement 1] Many times, the way that a person looks and dresses can help him get hired. After all, an interviewer's first impression is often based upon how a person looks. So, if an individual ignores his appearance and fashion, he might not be successful during the interview process. [Example 1] My older brother had an experience just like this. A few months after he got his current job, his boss told my brother that he had been competing against a woman for the job. However, because my brother looked more professional, his boss decided to hire him, so my brother got the job. [Closing sentence 1] Taking special care of one's appearance can certainly help one's career. It certainly did for my brother.

[Topic sentence 2] Next, if a person emphasizes his appearance, he can improve his self-esteem. [General statement 2] Many people suffer from low esteem and a lack of self-confidence. However, people who have good bodies and wear fashionable clothes often feel better about themselves. Their appearance actually gives them more confidence. [Example 2] Again, my older brother is an excellent example. He was always overweight and very shy in middle school. He also had few friends and was not very popular. However, he started paying more attention to his appearance and began exercising in high school. As he started to slim up, he came out of his shell and almost immediately became a more confident, outgoing person. This change made him more popular at school too, so he started feeling better about himself. [Closing sentence 2] It seems clear to me that people are happier when they take care of their appearance and are confident in how they look.

[Summary] Ultimately, it is good that people pay more attention to their appearance because it will help them secure better jobs and improve how they feel about themselves. [Final comment] Taking special care of one's appearance and fashion is definitely a rewarding investment.
B Your Essay (Agree)

[Opening sentence]  [Thesis statement]

[Topic sentence 1]  [General statement 1]

[Example 1]

[Closing sentence 1]

[Topic sentence 2]  [General statement 2]

[Example 2]

[Closing sentence 2]

[Summary]

[Final comment]
Completing & Checking Your Essay

Read the following question, and write your own essay of at least 300 words. You have 30 minutes to plan, write, and revise your essay.

Do you agree or disagree with the following statement?

People should spend money on things that last a long time, such as expensive pieces of jewelry, than spend money on short-term pleasures like vacations.

Use specific reasons and examples to support your answer.
Check your essay.

**Introduction**

Is the topic understood correctly? [ ] [ ]

Is there a clear thesis statement? [ ] [ ]

**Body**

Is there a topic sentence for each paragraph? [ ] [ ]

Are there clear and sufficient supporting details for the topic sentences? [ ] [ ]

Does each paragraph appropriately support the thesis statement? [ ] [ ]

Are there any redundant or irrelevant supporting details? [ ] [ ]

Are the ideas linked with appropriate transition words? [ ] [ ]

**Conclusion**

Is there a restatement of the thesis? [ ] [ ]

Does the conclusion sum up the main ideas of the essay properly? [ ] [ ]

**Grammar & Vocabulary**

Are all the sentences grammatically correct? [ ] [ ]

Are various sentence structures used? [ ] [ ]

Are various words and expressions used? [ ] [ ]

Are all the words spelled correctly? [ ] [ ]

Are the punctuation marks used correctly? [ ] [ ]
Understanding the Topic

Read the essay topic, and answer the following questions in words or phrases.

Do you agree or disagree with the following statement?

It is better to take a trip by oneself than to take a group tour with guidance.

Use specific reasons and examples to support your answer.

1. What is “to take a trip by oneself”?
   To travel independently without the aid of a travel agent or tour guide

2. What are the advantages of taking a trip by oneself?
   

3. What examples can you give about the advantages of taking a trip by oneself?
   

4. What are the advantages of taking a group tour with guidance?
   Everything planned → no stress; just enjoy the trip
   Meet other travelers → form long-lasting friendships

5. What examples can you give about taking a group tour with guidance?
   Family package tour to China → no worries about hotels, transportation, or sightseeing
   Parents' honeymoon to Russia → met another couple & have been best friends ever since
Brainstorming

Based on your answers to the above questions, complete the brainstorming map.

Traveling alone is better than a group tour with guidance.

Agree

1. 
2. 
3. e.g. family package tour to China

Disagree

no stress; just enjoy the trip

everything planned out

meet other travelers

form long-lasting friendships

e.g. my parents' honeymoon to Russia on a group tour

4. 
5. 
6. 
Outlining

Look at the brainstorming map, and complete your outline.

**A Suggested Outline (Disagree)**

1. Group tours plan everything for you.
   - no stress or anxiety → just enjoy traveling
   - e.g. family package tour to China → easy b/c hotels, transportation, & lodging taken care of.

2. Meet other travelers
   - form long-lasting friendships
   - e.g. my parents' honeymoon to Russia on a group tour → made good friends on trip

**B Your Outline (Agree)**

1. ____________________________________________
   - ____________________________________________
   - e.g. ____________________________________________

2. ____________________________________________
   - ____________________________________________
   - e.g. ____________________________________________
Writing the Thesis Statement & Topic Sentences

Based on your outline above, express the main ideas in full sentences.

A  Suggested Position (Disagree)

Introduction
Thesis statement  Taking a group tour is the best option for people considering a vacation.

Body
Topic sentence 1  Group tours plan travelers' entire itineraries.
Topic sentence 2  Group tours allow people to interact with one another while traveling.

Conclusion
Summary  In conclusion, there is nothing better than a group tour when traveling. Group tours schedule everything on the trip, and they give individuals the opportunity to meet other individuals and form lasting friendships.

B  Your Position (Agree)

Introduction
Thesis statement

Body
Topic sentence 1

Topic sentence 2

Conclusion
Summary
[Opening sentence] Many people are content to take trips by themselves and not use group or package tours. Unfortunately, they do not always have the best vacations. Instead, people should consider group tours. [Thesis statement] Taking a group tour is the best option for people considering a vacation.

[Topic sentence 1] First, group tours plan travelers’ entire itineraries. [General statement 1] Because their trip has already been arranged, people do not have to worry about where they are going or how they are getting there. They can simply relax, enjoy their trip, and not get stressed out about anything. [Example 1] For example, my family once took a package tour to China. The travel agency arranged everything. It took care of the hotel reservations, transportation, and sightseeing. My family did not have to worry about anything. We just looked at the schedule the travel agency had provided and followed it. Thanks to the travel agency, we could just relax and enjoy our entire trip. This made things easier on my father since he did not have to worry every single minute about where we would go next. All in all, we had a great trip. [Closing sentence 1] Group tours take the anxiety of daily planning out of traveling and let travelers enjoy their vacations without any stress.

[Topic sentence 2] Another benefit of group tours is that they allow people to interact with one another while traveling. [General statement 2] Travelers are able to form tight friendships with people whom they otherwise would never have met because they are traveling together for a number of days. [Example 2] For instance, for their honeymoon, my parents went to Russia on a group tour. They met another couple on that trip, and everyone had a great time together. Even after many years, they remain very close friends and travel together from time to time. If my parents had traveled by themselves, they would never have met this couple, and they would have lost out on a good friendship. [Closing sentence 2] Group tours allow people to meet others on the same trip and help them form strong friendships, unlike traveling independently.

[Summary] In conclusion, there is nothing better than a group tour when traveling. Group tours schedule everything on the trip, and they give individuals the opportunity to meet other individuals and form lasting friendships. [Final comment] Group tours are the best way to travel when taking a trip.
Your Essay (Agree)

[Opening sentence]  

[Thesis statement]  

[Topic sentence 1]  

[General statement 1]  

[Example 1]  

[Closing sentence 1]  

[Topic sentence 2]  

[General statement 2]  

[Example 2]  

[Closing sentence 2]  

[Summary]  

[Final comment]
Completing & Checking Your Essay

Read the following question, and write your own essay of at least 300 words. You have 30 minutes to plan, write, and revise your essay.

Do you agree or disagree with the following statement?

Movies and television have more negative effects than positive effects on young people’s behavior.

Use specific reasons and examples to support your answer.
Check your essay.

### Introduction
- Is the topic understood correctly? [ ] [ ]
- Is there a clear thesis statement? [ ] [ ]

### Body
- Is there a topic sentence for each paragraph? [ ] [ ]
- Are there clear and sufficient supporting details for the topic sentences? [ ] [ ]
- Does each paragraph appropriately support the thesis statement? [ ] [ ]
- Are there any redundant or irrelevant supporting details? [ ] [ ]
- Are the ideas linked with appropriate transition words? [ ] [ ]

### Conclusion
- Is there a restatement of the thesis? [ ] [ ]
- Does the conclusion sum up the main ideas of the essay properly? [ ] [ ]

### Grammar & Vocabulary
- Are all the sentences grammatically correct? [ ] [ ]
- Are various sentence structures used? [ ] [ ]
- Are various words and expressions used? [ ] [ ]
- Are all the words spelled correctly? [ ] [ ]
- Are the punctuation marks used correctly? [ ] [ ]
Understanding the Topic

Read the essay topic, and answer the following questions in words or phrases.

Do you agree or disagree with the following statement?
It is better to take the most difficult and challenging classes in university or at college even if it means that you probably will not get top grades (marks) in them.
Use specific reasons and examples to support your answer.

1. What are “difficult and challenging classes” at a university or college?
   Classes the student might not be familiar with and that involve a lot of work

2. What are the advantages of taking more difficult classes?
   - More demanding professors → learn more & develop better study skills
   - Set high goals → increase confidence and experience

3. What examples can you give about taking difficult and challenging classes?
   - Difficult math class → learned more than ever before
   - French class → gained confidence

4. What are the advantages of taking easier classes and getting high scores?

5. What examples can you give about taking a relatively easy class?
Brainstorming

Based on your answers to the above questions, complete the brainstorming map.

**Agree**
- more demanding professors
- learn more & develop better study skills
- benefit from setting higher goals
- increase confidence & experience
- *e.g. math class*
- *e.g. French class*

**Disagree**
- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.
- 6.

*Take challenging classes in college; top scores aren't most important.*
Outlining

Look at the brainstorming map, and complete your outline.

A Suggested Outline (Agree)

1. Learn more and develop better study skills
   - more demanding professors
   - e.g. took tough math class → learned more than before

2. Benefit from setting higher goals
   - increase confidence & experience
   - e.g. French class gave me confidence → more important than high grade

B Your Outline (Disagree)

1. __________________________________________
   - __________________________________________
   - e.g. __________________________________________

2. __________________________________________
   - __________________________________________
   - e.g. __________________________________________
Writing the Thesis Statement & Topic Sentences

Based on your outline above, express the main ideas in full sentences.

A  Suggested Position (Agree)

Introduction
Thesis statement Taking challenging and difficult classes is the best way for me to realize my full potential even if my grades are not top-notch.

Body
Topic sentence 1 I can learn more and develop better study skills if I take difficult and challenging classes.

Topic sentence 2 By setting higher goals for myself, I can achieve more as a student and individual than I would if I set low goals or none at all.

Conclusion
Summary Grades are not everything. It is better to take challenging classes because, as students, we will learn more and increase our confidence and experience.

B  Your Position (Disagree)

Introduction
Thesis statement

Body
Topic sentence 1

Topic sentence 2

Conclusion
Summary
Writing the Details

Based on your outline, complete the essay with supporting details.

A  Sample Essay (Agree)

[Opening sentence] Once many students enter college, they take the easiest classes available to maintain high GPAs. [Thesis statement] However, I believe that taking challenging and difficult classes is the best way for me to realize my full potential even if my grades are not top-notch.

[Topic sentence 1] First of all, I can learn more and develop better study skills if I take difficult and challenging classes. [General statement 1] In those classes, the professors will be much more demanding and expect the best from their students. [Example 1] For example, I once took a math class with a teacher who was infamous for being really tough. She definitely lived up to her reputation. I had loads of homework every night, and the class was a struggle at times. However, I got used to the heavy course load, and, while tough, the teacher was fair, and I learned more in that math class than in any other one I had ever taken. [Closing sentence 1] Taking challenging courses is definitely a good way to learn more.

[Topic sentence 2] Moreover, by setting higher goals for myself, I can achieve more as a student and individual than I would if I set low goals or none at all. [General statement 2] Completing tough courses regardless of my final grades will increase my confidence and experience. [Example 2] Last year, I enrolled in a French language course for the first time. I was nervous at first, and the course was demanding. But, in time, I developed a lot of confidence in this class. This year, I am continuing with French, and it is becoming much easier for me because of my experience. To me, it is the experience and confidence that counts, not getting a perfect grade. [Closing sentence 2] Taking harder courses at university will clearly outweigh the easy ones.

[Summary] Grades are not everything. It is better to take challenging classes because, as students, we will learn more and increase our confidence and experience. This will be more beneficial in the future than high grades from easy courses. [Final comment] Easy classes might produce top grades, but challenging ones prepare a student for life.
Your Essay (Disagree)

[Opening sentence] [Thesis statement]

[Topic sentence 1] [General statement 1]

[Example 1]

[Closing sentence 1]

[Topic sentence 2] [General statement 2]

[Example 2]

[Closing sentence 2]

[Summary]

[Final comment]
Completing & Checking Your Essay

A Read the following question, and write your own essay of at least 300 words. You have 30 minutes to plan, write, and revise your essay.

Do you agree or disagree with the following statement?
It is better to have a year-long break before attending university.
Use specific reasons and examples to support your answer.
Check your essay.

**Introduction**
- Is the topic understood correctly? □ □
- Is there a clear thesis statement? □ □

**Body**
- Is there a topic sentence for each paragraph? □ □
- Are there clear and sufficient supporting details for the topic sentences? □ □
- Does each paragraph appropriately support the thesis statement? □ □
- Are there any redundant or irrelevant supporting details? □ □
- Are the ideas linked with appropriate transition words? □ □

**Conclusion**
- Is there a restatement of the thesis? □ □
- Does the conclusion sum up the main ideas of the essay properly? □ □

**Grammar & Vocabulary**
- Are all the sentences grammatically correct? □ □
- Are various sentence structures used? □ □
- Are various words and expressions used? □ □
- Are all the words spelled correctly? □ □
- Are the punctuation marks used correctly? □ □
Understanding the Topic

Read the essay topic, and answer the following questions in words or phrases.

Do you agree or disagree with the following statement?

A teacher's ability to relate well with his or her students is more important than the ability to give them knowledge.

Use specific reasons and examples to support your answer.

1. What is an "ability to relate well" with students?
   An ability to understand and have friendly relationships with students

2. What are the advantages of a teacher's ability to relate well with his or her students?
   Can get students' attention in class
   Can command students' respect

3. What examples can you give about a teacher's ability to relate well with students?
   Use PowerPoint presentations to get students' attention
   Some teachers I respect → listen to my personal problems

4. What are the advantages of teachers giving students knowledge rather than relating well to them?

5. What examples can you give about the importance of a teacher's ability to give students knowledge?
Brainstorming

Based on your answers to the above questions, complete the brainstorming map.

- Ability to relate well with students > Ability to give students knowledge
- Agree
  - Must get students' attention
  - Students - interested in technology
  - E.g. use computers in class → PowerPoint presentations
- Disagree
  - Should know when to be strict & when to be caring
  - Must command students' respect
  - E.g. respectful teachers I've had → listen to my personal problems
  - Agree

1. ________
2. ________
3. ________
4. ________
5. ________
6. ________
Outlining

Look at the brainstorming map, and complete your outline.

A Suggested Outline (Agree)

1. Must be able to get their students' attention
   - students are interested in technology
   - e.g. better to use PowerPoint instead of merely lecturing

2. Need to be able to command students' respect
   - should be strict but also know when to ease up on students
   - e.g. several respectful teachers → understand my personal problems and give some advice

B Your Outline (Disagree)

1. 
   
   
   
   - e.g.

2. 
   
   
   
   - e.g.
Writing the Thesis Statement & Topic Sentences

Based on your outline above, express the main ideas in full sentences.

A  Suggested Position (Agree)

Introduction
Thesis statement  A teacher unable to relate to his or her students will never be able to get their attention and command their respect, which are two very important aspects of teaching.

Body
Topic sentence 1  Teachers have to know not only how to get their students' attention but also how to keep a hold of it in order to teach them.
Topic sentence 2  Teachers must be able to command the respect of their students in order to relate well to them.

Conclusion
Summary  In my experience, my best teachers have been the ones who have been able to relate well to their students. By doing so, they could get their students' attention and command their respect.

B  Your Position (Disagree)

Introduction
Thesis statement

Body
Topic sentence 1

Topic sentence 2

Conclusion
Summary
Writing the Details

Based on your outline, complete the essay with supporting details.

**A Sample Essay (Agree)**

[Opening sentence] Some people think a teacher's ability to give the students knowledge is one of the most important qualities of a teacher. [Thesis statement] In this day and age, however, a teacher unable to relate to his or her students will never be able to get their attention and command their respect, which are two very important aspects of teaching.

[Topic sentence 1] These days, teachers have to know not only how to get their students' attention but also how to keep a hold of it in order to teach them. [General statement 1] The world has changed very much in the past decade, and students these days are not interested in the same things they were into ten or twenty years ago. [Example 1] For example, we live in an age dominated by electronics, particularly computers. Most students my age know how to use all of the latest gadgets. Unfortunately, many teachers are technologically inept, so they have difficulty relating to students that way. Most of them never incorporate technology into their classes. Instead, they just lecture, which makes their classes boring. Some of them, however, use computers for things like PowerPoint presentations, which really helps to get most students' attention. [Closing sentence 1] Teachers that can relate to their students in areas like technology are definitely more able to keep their students' attention.

[Topic sentence 2] Teachers must also be able to command the respect of their students in order to relate well to them. [General statement 2] They must be strict in their classes yet should also know when their students, for whatever reason, are unable to study their best. [Example 2] For example, I have had several teachers who have been very strict and made their classes difficult. However, I always respected those teachers. The reason is that they knew when they were pushing the students too hard. When we were tired from having too many tests, they would not give us homework, or they would teach a fun lesson for us. Also, in the case of some teachers, I knew I could talk to them about any personal problems I had. I felt that these teachers would understand my problems and would therefore be able to give me some advice. [Closing sentence 2] Since these teachers could relate to their students so well, the students respected them more than they did other teachers.

[Summary] In my experience, my best teachers have been the ones who have been able to relate well to their students. By doing so, they could get their students' attention in class and command their respect. [Final comment] Teachers that cannot relate well to their students tend to have more difficulties with their students in class.
Your Essay (Disagree)

[Opening sentence]  
[Thesis statement]  

[Topic sentence 1]  
[General statement 1]  

[Example 1]  

[Closing sentence 1]  

[Topic sentence 2]  
[General statement 2]  

[Example 2]  

[Closing sentence 2]  

[Summary]  

[Final comment]
Completing & Checking Your Essay

A Read the following question, and write your own essay of at least 300 words. You have 30 minutes to plan, write, and revise your essay.

Do you agree or disagree with the following statement?
Parents make the best teachers.
Use specific reasons and examples to support your answer.
Check your essay.

**Introduction**

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**Body**

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**Conclusion**

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**Grammar & Vocabulary**

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Understanding the Topic

Read the essay topic, and answer the following questions in words or phrases.

Do you agree or disagree with the following statement?
It is more important to use land for human needs such as farming, housing, and industry than to save it for endangered animals.
Use specific reasons and examples to support your answer.

1. What are “endangered animals”?
   Animals whose populations are so small that they are in danger of becoming extinct

2. What are the advantages of using land for human needs?
   Distribution of human populations → live more comfortably
   Do not interfere with the extinction of animals → contribute to nature taking its course

3. What examples can you give about the importance of using land for human needs?
   Overcrowded cities, such as Tokyo, Seoul, & New York → distribution of populations
   Endangered animal preserves → interference in nature

4. What are the advantages of saving land for endangered animals?

5. What examples can you give about the importance of saving land for endangered animals?
Brainstorming

Based on your answers to the above questions, complete the brainstorming map.

Use land for human needs > Save land for endangered animals

Agree

- huge populations → overcrowded cities
- e.g. Tokyo, Seoul, & New York - over 10 million people
- humans need access to more land
- law of nature - species go extinct throughout history
- should not interfere with nature
- e.g. endangered animal preserves → interference in nature

Disagree

1. 
2. 
3. 
4. 
5. 
6.
Outlining

Look at the brainstorming map, and complete your outline.

A Suggested Outline (Agree)

1. The population of the planet is growing every year.
   - overcrowded cities → people need new land to move to
   - e.g. Tokyo, Seoul, & New York

2. It is natural for some animals to go extinct.
   - should not interfere with nature
   - e.g. endangered animal preserves → interference in nature

B Your Outline (Disagree)

1. ________________________________
   - ________________________________
   - e.g. ________________________________

2. ________________________________
   - ________________________________
   - e.g. ________________________________
Writing the Thesis Statement & Topic Sentences

Based on your outline above, express the main ideas in full sentences.

A  Suggested Position (Agree)

Introduction
Thesis statement  While it would be nice to set aside land for endangered animals, it is much more important to use all available land for humans.

Body
Topic sentence 1  Humans need to use all of the land they can gain access to.
Topic sentence 2  Animals have gone extinct on Earth during every period in which life has existed on the planet.

Conclusion
Summary  While it is unfortunate that some endangered animals become extinct, people should be more concerned about taking care of humans and making sure that humans themselves survive.

B  Your Position (Disagree)

Introduction
Thesis statement

Body
Topic sentence 1

Topic sentence 2

Conclusion
Summary
Writing the Details

Based on your outline, complete the essay with supporting details.

A Sample Essay (Agree)

[Opening sentence] The population of Earth continues to increase every year, so people require more and more land upon which to farm, build houses, and operate factories. [Thesis statement] While it would be nice to set aside land for endangered animals, it is much more important to use all available land for humans.

[Topic sentence 1] To begin with, humans need to use all of the land they can gain access to. [General statement 1] As the planet's population continues to grow, people need to move onto land that was previously occupied only by animals. [Example 1] In many countries, there are large numbers of cities with over a million people. In fact, some cities, like Tokyo, Seoul, and New York, have populations of over ten million. These cities are overcrowded, so many people need to move out of them and onto new lands. While they may be moving to lands that are inhabited by endangered animals, the welfare of humans is much more important than that of a few endangered animals. [Closing sentence 1] People have to take care of Earth's expanding population, and the best way to enable people to live more comfortably is to move onto lands inhabited by animals.

[Topic sentence 2] Also, animals have gone extinct on Earth during every period in which life has existed on the planet. [General statement 2] It is a fact of life that some species die out while others flourish. People should not interfere with the extinction of animals but should instead allow nature to take its course. [Example 2] As a matter of fact, when some countries establish biological preserves for endangered animals to live on, they are interfering with nature. Man is the dominant species on this planet, so it is inevitable that some animals will go extinct because of man. [Closing sentence 2] Keeping endangered animals alive on these preserves is merely refusing to allow nature to let some animals live while killing off others.

[Summary] While it is unfortunate that some endangered animals become extinct, people should be more concerned about taking care of humans and making sure that humans themselves survive. [Final comment] It is much more important to worry about human civilization than to worry about endangered animals.
Your Essay (Disagree)

[Opening sentence]

[Thesis statement]

[Topic sentence 1]

[General statement 1]

[Example 1]

[Closing sentence 1]

[Topic sentence 2]

[General statement 2]

[Example 2]

[Closing sentence 2]

[Summary]

[Final comment]
Completing & Checking Your Essay

Read the following question, and write your own essay of at least 300 words. You have 30 minutes to plan, write, and revise your essay.

Do you agree or disagree with the following statement?
Renewable sources of energy (sun, water, wind) will soon replace fossil fuels (coal, gas, oil).
Use specific reasons and examples to support your answer.
Check your essay.

**Introduction**
- Is the topic understood correctly? [ ] Yes [ ] No
- Is there a clear thesis statement? [ ] Yes [ ] No

**Body**
- Is there a topic sentence for each paragraph? [ ] Yes [ ] No
- Are there clear and sufficient supporting details for the topic sentences? [ ] Yes [ ] No
- Does each paragraph appropriately support the thesis statement? [ ] Yes [ ] No
- Are there any redundant or irrelevant supporting details? [ ] Yes [ ] No
- Are the ideas linked with appropriate transition words? [ ] Yes [ ] No

**Conclusion**
- Is there a restatement of the thesis? [ ] Yes [ ] No
- Does the conclusion sum up the main ideas of the essay properly? [ ] Yes [ ] No

**Grammar & Vocabulary**
- Are all the sentences grammatically correct? [ ] Yes [ ] No
- Are various sentence structures used? [ ] Yes [ ] No
- Are various words and expressions used? [ ] Yes [ ] No
- Are all the words spelled correctly? [ ] Yes [ ] No
- Are the punctuation marks used correctly? [ ] Yes [ ] No
Chapter 4

Preference

Unit 14 _ Family & Society
Unit 15 _ Environment & Technology
Unit 16 _ Business & Economy
Some people think that the family is the most important influence on young adults. Other people think that friends are the most important influence on young adults. Which view do you agree with? Use specific reasons and examples to support your position.

1. What are “young adults”?
   Individuals in their late teens to early twenties

2. How is the family the most important influence on young adults?
   Parents’ contribution to education — emotional & financial support
   Offer good advice — more mature and more experienced than friends

3. What examples can you give about family influence?
   Cousin’s going to college — family completely financed so could focus on classes
   Brother won money in science contest — Mom and Dad said to save for college

4. How are friends the most important influence on young adults?

5. What examples can you give about friends’ influences?

Brainstorming

Based on your answers to the above questions, complete the brainstorming map.

1. __________
   __________

2. __________
   __________

3. __________
   __________

1. __________
   __________

4. __________
   __________

5. __________
   __________

6. __________
   __________

- e.g. cousin graduated from college
- financial & emotional support
- parents' contribution to education
- offer sound advice in good and bad times
- more mature & experienced
- e.g. advise brother to save money, not waste
Outlining

Look at the brainstorming map, and complete your outline.

A  Suggested Outline (Family > Friends)

1. Parents contribute to education.
   - university not possible without parents' financial support
   - e.g. cousin: financial support from his parents → first to graduate in his family

2. Family gives sound advice.
   - family members usually more mature & more experienced
   - e.g. brother's science contest money → in the bank for college

B  Your Outline (Family < Friends)

1. ________________________________
   - ________________________________
   - e.g. ________________________________

2. ________________________________
   - ________________________________
   - e.g. ________________________________
Writing the Thesis Statement & Topic Sentences

Based on your outline above, express the main ideas in full sentences.

A  Suggested Opinion (Family > Friends)

Introduction
Thesis statement I believe that families have the most important influences on young adults.

Body
Topic sentence 1 Parents are the only ones who are able to contribute to a young person’s educational goals.
Topic sentence 2 Families give sound advice during young adults’ good and bad times.

Conclusion
Summary In conclusion, there is no question that young adults are positively influenced the most by their families because their families support their future education after high school and often provide better advice than their more youthful friends can.

B  Your Opinion (Family < Friends)

Introduction
Thesis statement

Body
Topic sentence 1

Topic sentence 2

Conclusion
Summary
Writing the Details

Based on your outline, complete the essay with supporting details.

A Sample Essay (Family > Friends)

[Opening sentence] Young adults are very impressionable and are easily influenced in numerous ways, such as by their friends. [Thesis statement] Nevertheless, I believe that families have the most important influences on young adults because they contribute to young people's educational goals and give sound advice during good and bad times.

[Topic sentence 1] First of all, parents are the only ones who are able to contribute to a young person's educational goals. [General statement 1] Most young adults would not be able to attend university without their parents' financial support. [Example 1] For instance, my cousin was accepted to a high-ranking university, so his parents took out some personal loans, which allowed him to attend the school. Also, due to their support, he did not have to work, so he could focus exclusively on his studies. Ultimately, he became the first person in his family ever to graduate from university. [Closing sentence 1] Parents can therefore enable their children, who are young adults, to go to college.

[Topic sentence 2] Additionally, families give sound advice during young adults' good and bad times. [General statement 2] The reason is that many times parents and other older family members have been through a certain situation and are able to offer expert counsel, unlike the young person's friends, who are not as mature. [Example 2] For example, my older brother received a large sum of money from a science contest he entered and won in high school. Most of his friends told him to go out and buy a new cell phone and clothes. However, my mom and dad said that it might be better to save the money for college and put it in the bank. My dad pointed out that it will come in handy for him one day. My brother realized they were right. [Closing sentence 2] Nothing can replace the positive influence of the family on a young adult's life.

[Summary] In conclusion, there is no question that young adults are positively influenced the most by their families because their families support their future education after high school and often provide better advice than their more youthful friends can. [Final comment] Without their families, young adults would have much more difficult times navigating their ways through their lives.
Your Essay (Family < Friends)

[Opening sentence] [Thesis statement]

[Topic sentence 1] [General statement 1]

[Example 1]

[Closing sentence 1]

[Topic sentence 2] [General statement 2]

[Example 2]

[Closing sentence 2]

[Summary]

[Final comment]
Completing & Checking Your Essay

Read the following question, and write your own essay of at least 300 words. You have 30 minutes to plan, write, and revise your essay.

Some people prefer to spend time with one or two close friends. Others choose to spend time with a large number of friends. Which of these two ways of spending time do you think is better? Use specific reasons and examples to support your answer.
Check your essay.

**Introduction**
- Is the topic understood correctly?  
- Is there a clear thesis statement?

**Body**
- Is there a topic sentence for each paragraph?  
- Are there clear and sufficient supporting details for the topic sentences?  
- Does each paragraph appropriately support the thesis statement?  
- Are there any redundant or irrelevant supporting details?  
- Are the ideas linked with appropriate transition words?

**Conclusion**
- Is there a restatement of the thesis?  
- Does the conclusion sum up the main ideas of the essay properly?

**Grammar & Vocabulary**
- Are all the sentences grammatically correct?  
- Are various sentence structures used?  
- Are various words and expressions used?  
- Are all the words spelled correctly?  
- Are the punctuation marks used correctly?
Understanding the Topic

Read the essay topic, and answer the following questions in words or phrases.

Some people say that the Earth is being harmed (damaged) by human activity. Others believe that human activity makes the Earth a better place to live. Which opinion do you agree with? Use specific reasons and details to support your choice.

1. What is "human activity"?
   Actions by companies, governments, or individuals

2. How is the Earth being harmed by human activity?

3. What examples can you give about human activity harming the Earth?

4. How is human activity making the Earth a better place to live?
   Doctors donating time → poor people receive medical care & improve quality of lives
   Some people do not use their cars as much → reduce greenhouse gases

5. What examples can you give about human activity benefiting the Earth?
   Documentary on Doctors without Borders → help people in third-world countries
   People taking public transportation in some cities → better air quality
Brainstorming

Based on your answers to the above questions, complete the brainstorming map.

Human activity harms the Earth.

e.g. doctors donate time and skills

Human activity makes the Earth a better place.

e.g. people in cities use public transportation → better air quality

third-world countries receive important medical care

doctors donate time and skills

people use cars less

reduces greenhouse gases

e.g. docu. on Doctors w/o Borders → healthier societies

1.

2.

3.

4.

5.

6.
Outlining

Look at the brainstorming map, and complete your outline.

A Suggested Outline (Human activity makes the Earth a better place.)

1. Doctors donate time and skills.
   - places in Africa and elsewhere receive vital medical care
   - e.g. entire societies in third-world countries benefit from Doctors without Borders

2. People in certain cities use cars less.
   - reduction in greenhouse gases
   - e.g. people using only public transportation in some cities → better air quality

B Your Outline (Human activity harms the Earth.)

1. ______________________________________
   - ______________________________________
   - e.g. ______________________________________

2. ______________________________________
   - ______________________________________
   - e.g. ______________________________________

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Writing the Thesis Statement & Topic Sentences

Based on your outline above, express the main ideas in full sentences.

**A  Suggested Opinion (Human activity makes the Earth a better place.)**

Introduction
Thesis statement  Human beings continue to do positive things which are beneficial to Earth and therefore make it a better place to live.

Body
Topic sentence 1  Doctors are donating their time to societies in third-world countries.
Topic sentence 2  People in many cities of the world are using their cars less and less these days.

Conclusion
Summary  Ultimately, humans are doing many good things to make Earth a better place. Two of these actions are doctors donating their medical skills and people using their cars less. Doctors improve the health of people in needy societies, and the air quality has improved in places where people rely less on their own cars.

**B  Your Opinion (Human activity harms the Earth.)**

Introduction
Thesis statement

Body
Topic sentence 1

Topic sentence 2

Conclusion
Summary
Writing the Details

Based on your outline, complete the essay with supporting details.

A Sample Essay (Human activity makes the Earth a better place.)

[Opening sentence] Something that I often see on the news is how Earth is being destroyed by people. [Thesis statement] However, human beings continue to do positive things which are beneficial to Earth and therefore make it a better place to live.

[Topic sentence 1] First, doctors are donating their time to societies in third-world countries. [General statement 1] Places in Africa are benefiting from their aid and becoming healthier regions to live in more than ever before. [Example 1] For example, there is an organization called Doctors without Borders. They donate their vacation time to traveling to needy regions of the world and offering the people living there free medical care. Those regions are benefiting on every level—not just a medical one—from the doctors’ help. Through their assistance, the quality of life for people in these areas has greatly improved. [Closing sentence 1] Thanks to people in groups like Doctors without Borders, Earth has become a better place to live.

[Topic sentence 2] Furthermore, people in many cities of the world are using their cars less and less these days. [General statement 2] This helps eliminate harmful pollutants from the atmosphere and improves the quality of the environment. [Example 2] To give an example, people in certain cities have taken it upon themselves to rely less on their own cars and more on public transportation. In doing so, many citizens have reported vast improvements in the air quality of their cities. This proves that human activity can benefit Earth. [Closing sentence 2] If more people continue to make similar changes in their everyday behavior, Earth will continue to become a better place.

[Summary] Ultimately, humans are doing many good things to make Earth a better place. Two of these actions are doctors donating their medical skills and people using their cars less. Doctors improve the health of people in needy societies, and the air quality has improved in places where people rely less on their own cars. [Final comment] Actions by humans can improve the quality of Earth and life on it in many ways.
B Your Essay (Human activity harms the Earth.)

[Opening sentence] [Thesis statement]

[Topic sentence 1] [General statement 1]

[Example 1]

[Closing sentence 1]

[Topic sentence 2] [General statement 2]

[Example 2]

[Closing sentence 2]

[Summary]

[Final comment]
Completing & Checking Your Essay

A  Read the following question, and write your own essay of at least 300 words. You have 30 minutes to plan, write, and revise your essay.

Some people say that the Internet provides us with a lot of valuable information. Others believe that too much information on the Net causes many problems. Which opinion do you agree with? Why or why not? Use specific reasons and examples to support your answer.
Check your essay.

**Introduction**
- Is the topic understood correctly? [ ] [ ]
- Is there a clear thesis statement? [ ] [ ]

**Body**
- Is there a topic sentence for each paragraph? [ ] [ ]
- Are there clear and sufficient supporting details for the topic sentences? [ ] [ ]
- Does each paragraph appropriately support the thesis statement? [ ] [ ]
- Are there any redundant or irrelevant supporting details? [ ] [ ]
- Are the ideas linked with appropriate transition words? [ ] [ ]

**Conclusion**
- Is there a restatement of the thesis? [ ] [ ]
- Does the conclusion sum up the main ideas of the essay properly? [ ] [ ]

**Grammar & Vocabulary**
- Are all the sentences grammatically correct? [ ] [ ]
- Are various sentence structures used? [ ] [ ]
- Are various words and expressions used? [ ] [ ]
- Are all the words spelled correctly? [ ] [ ]
- Are the punctuation marks used correctly? [ ] [ ]
Understanding the Topic

Read the essay topic, and answer the following questions in words or phrases.

Some people prefer to work for a large company. Others prefer to work for a small company. Which would you prefer? Use specific reasons and details to support your choice.

1. What is a “small company / large company”?
   - A small company - one building or location & fewer than fifty workers
   - A large company - different locations & more than fifty workers

2. What are the benefits of working at a small company?
   - Job satisfaction → employees feel they play important roles at their companies
   - More flexibility → workers have high interest & energy levels

3. What examples can you give about the benefits of working at a small company?
   - Recent nationwide survey → over half of small company employees responded positively
   - TV documentary → various duties & more energy

4. What are the benefits of working at a large company?

5. What examples can you give about the benefits of working at a large company?
Brainstorming

Based on your answers to the above questions, complete the brainstorming map.

- e.g. recent nationwide survey - more employee satisfaction
- employees feel they play key roles at work
- job satisfaction
- Work for a small company
  - can experience various duties
    - e.g. TV documentary: a variety of tasks → interest & energy levels ↑
- Work for a large company
  - more flexibility
  - can experience various duties
  - e.g. TV documentary: a variety of tasks → interest & energy levels ↑
Outlining

Look at the brainstorming map, and complete your outline.

A Suggested Outline (Small company > Large company)

1. Greater job satisfaction
   - employees feel they are making bigger contributions & they play key roles at their companies
   - e.g. recent nationwide survey → positive responses from over half of the small company employees

2. More flexibility
   - workers perform a variety of duties → reduces burnout and boredom
   - e.g. TV documentary → a variety of tasks keeps interest and energy levels high

B Your Outline (Small company < Large company)

1. __________________________
   - __________________________
   - e.g.

2. __________________________
   - __________________________
   - e.g.
Writing the Thesis Statement & Topic Sentences

Based on your outline above, express the main ideas in full sentences.

**A Suggested Opinion** (Small company > Large company)

**Introduction**

Thesis statement While large companies might give bigger paychecks to their employees, small companies provide better working environments for their employees.

**Body**

Topic sentence 1 When it comes to job satisfaction, a large company simply cannot compete with a small company.

Topic sentence 2 Another important factor is that smaller companies also allow their employees flexibility, unlike large companies.

**Conclusion**

Summary In summation, small companies provide better work experiences for people because they are ultimately more satisfying and flexible than large companies.

**B Your Opinion** (Small company < Large company)

**Introduction**

Thesis statement

**Body**

Topic sentence 1

Topic sentence 2

**Conclusion**

Summary
Based on your outline, complete the essay with supporting details.

A  Sample Essay (Small company > Large company)

[Opening sentence] These days, it seems that many people want to work for large companies. In their minds, bigger is better. [Thesis statement] However, while large companies might give bigger paychecks to their employees, small companies provide better working environments for their employees.

[Topic sentence 1] One major advantage is job satisfaction. When it comes to job satisfaction, a large company simply cannot compete with a small company. [General statement 1] Because of its size, employees often feel that they are making a bigger contribution when they work at a small company as opposed to when they work at a large one. At a large company, workers often feel like they are simply anonymous individuals. [Example 1] In a recent nationwide survey, employees at both small and large companies were questioned about their overall job satisfaction. Over half of the small company employees responded positively, citing the fact that they believe they play key roles at their companies. In contrast, fewer than a third of the workers at large companies believed that their contributions were of importance. [Closing sentence 1] This clearly shows how employees at small companies feel more valued than employees at large companies.

[Topic sentence 2] Another important factor is that smaller companies also allow their employees flexibility, unlike large companies. [General statement 2] Employees at small companies often have various duties, which keep their interest and energy levels high. [Example 2] Last year, a TV documentary revealed that many employees at small companies perform multiple duties and, in turn, have higher energy levels than their large company counterparts. In short, the variety of duties lets workers at small companies maintain their interest in their jobs. Performing different jobs also helps reduce burnout and boredom, according to the program. Unfortunately, workers at large companies do not often get the opportunity to do a variety of tasks. [Closing sentence 2] Task flexibility enables employees at small companies to have excellent work environments.

[Summary] In summation, small companies provide better work experiences for people because they are ultimately more satisfying and flexible than large companies. [Final comment] People spend a large part of their adult lives at their jobs, and, by working at small companies, they can improve their levels of satisfaction with their work.
Your Essay (Small company < Large company)

[Opening sentence]

[Thesis statement]

[Topic sentence 1]

[General statement 1]

[Example 1]

[Closing sentence 1]

[Topic sentence 2]

[General statement 2]

[Example 2]

[Closing sentence 2]

[Summary]

[Final comment]
Completing & Checking Your Essay

Read the following question, and write your own essay of at least 300 words. You have 30 minutes to plan, write, and revise your essay.

Some people think governments should spend as much money as possible exploring outer space (for example, traveling to the moon and to other planets). Other people disagree and think governments should spend this money on our basic needs on Earth. Which of these two opinions do you agree with? Use specific reasons and details to support your answer.
Check your essay.

**Introduction**
- Is the topic understood correctly? [ ] Yes [ ] No
- Is there a clear thesis statement? [ ] Yes [ ] No

**Body**
- Is there a topic sentence for each paragraph? [ ] Yes [ ] No
- Are there clear and sufficient supporting details for the topic sentences? [ ] Yes [ ] No
- Does each paragraph appropriately support the thesis statement? [ ] Yes [ ] No
- Are there any redundant or irrelevant supporting details? [ ] Yes [ ] No
- Are the ideas linked with appropriate transition words? [ ] Yes [ ] No

**Conclusion**
- Is there a restatement of the thesis? [ ] Yes [ ] No
- Does the conclusion sum up the main ideas of the essay properly? [ ] Yes [ ] No

**Grammar & Vocabulary**
- Are all the sentences grammatically correct? [ ] Yes [ ] No
- Are various sentence structures used? [ ] Yes [ ] No
- Are various words and expressions used? [ ] Yes [ ] No
- Are all the words spelled correctly? [ ] Yes [ ] No
- Are the punctuation marks used correctly? [ ] Yes [ ] No
This part provides you with a list of essential essay topics reconstructed from the ones that have so far been asked on the TOEFL® iBT. By practicing writing your essays on these topics, you will effectively prepare yourself for the Independent Writing of the TOEFL® iBT.
1. Do you agree or disagree with the following statement? University students should not be required to attend classes. Instead, they should be able to receive credits through a final test or paper. Use specific reasons and details to explain your answer.

2. Some people say that students learn the most important things in life inside the classroom. Others believe that they learn the most important lessons of life outside the classroom. Which opinion do you agree with? Why? Use specific reasons and examples to support your answer.

3. Do you agree or disagree with the following statement? Universities should give the same financial support to their students' sports and social activities as they give to their classes and libraries. Use specific reasons and examples to support your opinion.

4. Do you agree or disagree with the following statement? It is better for students to take classes for more than 11 months throughout the year. Use specific reasons and details to support your answer.

5. Do you agree or disagree with the following statement? Schools (universities, colleges, and high schools) should teach students about specific careers and jobs instead of general subjects. Use specific reasons and examples to support your answer.

6. Do you agree or disagree with the following statement? A teacher's ability to relate well with his or her students is more important than the ability to give them knowledge. Use specific reasons and examples to explain your answer.

7. Do you agree or disagree with the following statement? It is more important to learn general knowledge in various subjects than to learn specialized knowledge in one subject. Use specific reasons and examples to support your answer.
Do you agree or disagree with the following statement? It is more important for a teacher to help students gain self-confidence than to teach them specific knowledge. Use specific reasons and examples to support your answer.

Do you agree or disagree with the following statement? It is more important to give students prizes or awards for their efforts than for their achievements (successes or grades). Use specific reasons and details to support your answer.

Do you agree or disagree with the following statement? Classmates have more influences on a child's success in school than parents do. Use specific reasons and examples to support your answer.

Do you agree or disagree with the following statement? It is more important to learn knowledge from studying than to develop creativity. Use specific reasons and examples to support your answer.

Do you agree or disagree with the following statement? It is better to take the most difficult and challenging classes in university or at college even if it means that you probably will not get top grades (marks) in them. Use specific reasons and examples to support your answer.

Do you agree or disagree with the following statement? In high schools or colleges, it is more desirable for a group project to be evaluated the same regardless of the individual students' performances. Use specific reasons and examples to support your answer.

Do you agree or disagree with the following statement? It is more important to choose the subjects that you are interested in than the subjects you need to prepare for a job or a career. Use specific reasons and examples to support your answer.

Do you agree or disagree with the following statement? Grades (marks) can encourage students to learn. Use specific reasons and examples to support your answer.

Do you agree or disagree with the following statement? Teachers should give students homework every day. Use specific reasons and examples to support your answer.

Do you agree or disagree with the following statement? All teachers should be required to update their knowledge every five years. Use specific reasons and examples to support your answer.

Do you agree or disagree with the following statement? It is better to have a yearlong break before attending university. Use specific reasons and examples to support your answer.
19 Do you agree or disagree with the following statement? A university education is essential to one's success in life. Use specific reasons and examples to support your answer.

20 Do you agree or disagree with the following statement? It is more important to understand ideas and concepts than to learn facts. Use specific reasons and examples to support your answer.

21 Do you agree or disagree with the following statement? Parents make the best teachers. Use specific reasons and examples to support your answer.

22 Do you agree or disagree with the following statement? All universities should require students to take a science class even though their major has no relevance to this field. Use specific reasons and examples to support your answer.

23 Do you agree or disagree with the following statement? Twenty years from now, students will no longer use printed books. Use specific reasons and examples to support your answer.

1 Do you agree or disagree with the following statement? It is better to learn from co-workers and friends than to learn from teachers and supervisors. Use specific reasons and examples to support your answer.

2 Some people say that a person should make important decisions alone. Others believe that it is always better to ask others for advice. Which opinion do you agree with? Use specific reasons and examples to support your answer.

3 Do you agree or disagree with the following statement? The best way for a good future is to plan carefully when you are young. Use specific reasons and details to explain your answer.

4 Do you agree or disagree with the following statement? There are so many sources of news and information that it is difficult to know whom to believe and who is telling the truth. Use specific reasons and examples to support your answer.
Do you agree or disagree with the following statement? Nowadays, people put too much emphasis on personal appearance and fashion. Use specific reasons and examples to support your answer.

Do you agree or disagree with the following statement? Young people enjoy life more than older people do. Use specific reasons and examples to support your answer.

Do you agree or disagree with the following statement? To speak well is more important than to write well. Use specific reasons and examples to support your answer.

Do you agree or disagree with the following statement? Letting a friend make a mistake is better than saying or doing something that would destroy the friendship. Use specific reasons and examples to support your answer.

Do you agree or disagree with the following statement? It is more important to keep old friends than to make new friends. Use specific reasons and examples to support your answer.

Do you agree or disagree with the following statement? Observing or studying animals teaches us a lot about human nature. Use specific reasons and details to support your answer.

Do you agree or disagree with the following statement? Most people prefer having others make decisions for them. Use specific reasons and examples to support your answer.

Do you agree or disagree with the following statement? It is important to know about the events going on in the world even if they do not affect your daily life. Use specific reasons and examples to support your answer.

Do you agree or disagree with the following statement? People should spend money on things that last a long time, such as an expensive piece of jewelry, and not spend money on short-term pleasures like vacations. Use specific reasons and examples to support your answer.

Do you agree or disagree with the following statement? It is important to know about the events happening around the world that are not related to you. Use specific reasons and examples to support your answer.

Do you agree or disagree with the following statement? The ability to cooperate well with others is more important today than in the past. Use specific reasons and examples to support your answer.
Do you agree or disagree with the following statement? Today, people do so many different things that they can only do a few things well. Use specific reasons and examples to support your answer.

Do you agree or disagree with the following statement? Because modern life is complex, young people should have the ability to plan and organize. Use specific reasons and details to support your answer.

Do you agree or disagree with the following statement? People must get their news from newspapers; television news doesn't provide enough information. Use specific reasons and details to support your answer.

Do you agree or disagree with the following statement? Getting advice from friends of an older age is more valuable than advice from friends your own age. Use specific reasons and details to support your answer.

Do you agree or disagree with the following statement? It is better to do one project first and then begin to do another than to do several projects at the same time. Use specific reasons and details to support your answer.

Do you agree or disagree with the following statement? The extended family (such as grandparents, cousins, aunts, and uncles) is less important now than it was in the past. Use specific reasons and examples to support your answer.

Do you agree or disagree with the following statement? It is more important to spend time at work than to spend time with family. Use specific reasons and details to support your answer.

Do you agree or disagree with the following statement? Young people do not give enough time to help their communities. Use specific reasons and details to support your answer.

Do you agree or disagree with the following statement? Living today is more comfortable and easier than when your grandparents were children. Use specific reasons and details to support your answer.
5 Do you agree or disagree with the following statement? Parents can no longer control what their children do; their behavior is more affected by television, movies, and other influences from outside the home. Use specific reasons and examples to support your answer.

D Business & Economy

1 Do you agree or disagree with the following statement? Being happy with a job is more important than having a high salary. Use specific reasons and examples to support your answer.

2 Do you agree or disagree with the following statement? It is unrealistic for people to expect to work for the same company or employer for all of their lives. Use specific reasons and details to support your answer.

3 Do you agree or disagree with the following statement? It is better to work for a large company than for a small company. Use specific reasons and details to support your answer.

4 Do you agree or disagree with the following statement? Most advertisements make products seem much better than they really are. Use specific reasons and examples to support your answer.

5 Do you agree or disagree with the following statement? Getting a job in which you work with other people is better than getting a job in which you work alone. Use specific reasons and details to support your answer.

E Culture & Leisure

1 Do you agree or disagree with the following statement? People today spend too much time paying attention to the personal lives of celebrities or famous people. Use specific reasons and examples to support your answer.
Do you agree or disagree with the following statement? It is better to take a trip by oneself than to take a group tour with guidance. Use specific reasons and examples to support your answer.

Do you agree or disagree with the following statement? It is better to watch serious movies that are designed to make you think than to watch movies that are primarily designed to amuse or entertain. Use specific reasons and examples to support your answer.

Do you agree or disagree with the following statement? Governments should spend more money supporting the arts than supporting athletics such as an Olympic team. Use specific reasons and examples to support your answer.

Do you agree or disagree with the following statement? Movies and television have more negative effects than positive effects on young people's behavior. Use specific reasons and examples to support your answer.

Do you agree or disagree with the following statement? The second reading of a book is more interesting than the first reading. Use specific reasons and examples to support your answer.

Do you agree or disagree with the following statement? People learn more by watching television than by reading books. Use specific reasons and examples to support your answer.

Do you agree or disagree with the following statement? Twenty years from now, people will have more time for leisure activities. Use specific reasons and examples to support your answer.

Do you agree or disagree with the following statement? The purpose of television should be to educate, not to entertain. Use specific reasons and examples to support your answer.

Do you agree or disagree with the following statement? Renewable sources of energy (sun, water, wind) will soon replace fossil fuels (coal, gas, oil). Use specific reasons and examples to support your answer.
2 Do you agree or disagree with the following statement? It is more important to use land for human needs such as farming, housing, and industry than to save it for endangered animals. Use specific reasons and examples to support your answer.

3 Do you agree or disagree with the following statement? The most effective way for the government to conserve energy is to increase the price of gasoline and electricity. Use specific reasons and examples to support your answer.

4 Some people say that the Internet provides us with a lot of valuable information. Others believe that too much information on the Net causes many problems. Which opinion do you agree with? Why or why not? Use specific reasons and examples to support your answer.

5 Do you agree or disagree with the following statement? Twenty years from now, people will not use their cars as frequently as they do now. Use specific reasons and details to support your answer.

6 Do you agree or disagree with the following statement? People should not be allowed to use mobile (cell) phones when they use public transportation (e.g. buses, trains, and airplanes). Use specific reasons and details to support your answer.
Writing Section Directions

This section measures your ability to use writing to communicate in an academic environment. There will be two writing tasks.

For the first writing task, you will read a passage and listen to a lecture and then answer a question based on what you have read and heard. For the second writing task, you will answer a question based on your own knowledge and experience.

Now, listen to the directions for the first writing task.

Actual Tests
Writing Based on Reading and Listening

Directions

For this task, you will have three minutes to read a passage about an academic topic. A clock at the top of the screen will show how much time you have to read. You may take notes while you read. You will be able to see the reading passage again when it is time for you to write. You may use your notes to help you answer the question.

You will then have 20 minutes to write a response to a question that asks you about the relationship between the lecture you have heard and the reading passage. Try to answer the question as completely as possible using information from the reading passage and the lecture. The question does not ask you to express your personal opinion.

Typically, an effective response will be 150 to 225 words. Your response will be judged on the quality of your writing and on the completeness and accuracy of the content.

Now you will see the reading passage for 3 minutes. Remember that it will be available to you again while you are writing. Immediately after the reading time ends, the lecture will begin, so keep your headset on until the lecture has ended.
While the modern age has led to many improvements in people's lifestyles, one negative aspect has emerged. Namely, the cost of raising children in the United States has ballooned. In fact, raising a child costs more in America than in any other country on Earth.

According to a recent study, on average, parents must pay approximately $260,000 to feed, clothe, and educate their children from the day they are born until they graduate from university at approximately the age of twenty-one. For many families, the costs are even higher since they send their children to expensive private schools and universities, some of which charge over $40,000 a year for tuition and room and board. This number does not include travel or toys and other playthings, which can also be expensive.

Incredibly, rearing children in America requires about a third more money than in other Western countries like France and Spain. One reason for this is the limited socialism found in many European countries, where parents do not have to pay tuition for their children to attend schools. Also, while the standard of living is lower in these countries than in the U.S., prices are also cheaper, a big advantage that enables parents to save more money.

Finally, there is the matter of what parents spend their money on. Parents in most countries use the majority of money dedicated to their children on necessities like clothes and food. However, Americans typically spend money on items people from other countries would consider excessive. For example, American parents expend considerable amounts of money on private tutoring—in education, music, and athletics. Also, they pay extremely high amounts for health care for their children. Altogether, it makes bringing up American children very expensive.
Question

Directions: You have 20 minutes to plan and write your response. Your response will be judged on the basis of the quality of your writing and on how well your response presents the points in the lecture and their relationship to the reading passage. Typically, an effective response will be 150 to 225 words.

Question: Summarize the points made in the lecture, being sure to specifically explain how they answer the problems raised in the reading passage.

While the modern age has led to many improvements in people's lifestyles, one negative aspect has emerged. Namely, the cost of raising children in the United States has ballooned. In fact, raising a child costs more in America than in any other country on Earth.

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Writing Based on Knowledge and Experience

Directions

For this task, you will write an essay in response to a question that asks you to state, explain, and support your opinion on an issue. You will have 30 minutes to write your essay.

Typically, an effective essay will contain a minimum of 300 words. Your essay will be judged on the quality of your writing. This includes the development of your ideas, the organization of the content, and the quality and accuracy of the language you used to express ideas.

Click on Continue to go on.
Directions: Read the question below. You have 30 minutes to plan, write, and revise your essay. Typically, an effective response will contain a minimum of 300 words.

Question:
Do you agree or disagree with the following statement?

Most advertisements make products seem much better than they really are.

Use specific reasons and examples to support your answer.
Writing Based on Reading and Listening
Directions

For this task, you will have three minutes to read a passage about an academic topic. A clock at the top of the screen will show how much time you have to read. You may take notes while you read. You will be able to see the reading passage again when it is time for you to write. You may use your notes to help you answer the question.

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Now you will see the reading passage for 3 minutes. Remember that it will be available to you again while you are writing. Immediately after the reading time ends, the lecture will begin, so keep your headset on until the lecture has ended.
One of the most controversial aspects of law enforcement these days is speed cameras. These are cameras that are installed at various places and then used to monitor the speeds of passing drivers. Equipped with radar detectors, they take pictures of speeders, which then results in violators being sent a speeding ticket that they must pay some time later. While many people dislike speed cameras, they are actually beneficial to society.

For one, they have made the roads safer. While there are sometimes signs that indicate that speed cameras are nearby, most of the time they are hidden from view. Therefore, if drivers feel or know that there is a speed camera in the vicinity, they often drive slower since the price of speeding tickets can be two hundred or more dollars. Slower speeds mean fewer accidents, so speed cameras are already helping protect people.

Second of all, because of speed cameras, police officers do not have to waste much of their time finding speeders. This frees the police to do the more important aspects of their job, like catching criminals and helping keep the public safe. In fact, thanks to the success of speed cameras, more and more are being installed, so, in the future, police officers may never have to issue any speeding tickets at all.

Finally, because speed cameras provide hard evidence that an individual was, in fact, speeding, fewer people are protesting their tickets in court. This decrease in complaints is starting to free up traffic courts, which are constantly backlogged with cases. So, instead of challenging their tickets, most violators, when they receive a picture of their transgression in the mail, simply write a check and pay their fine.
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Click on Continue to go on.
Directions: Read the question below. You have 30 minutes to plan, write, and revise your essay. Typically, an effective response will contain a minimum of 300 words.

Question:
Some people say that students learn the most important things in life inside the classroom. Others believe that they learn the most important lessons of life outside the classroom.

Which opinion do you agree with? Why? Use specific reasons and examples to support your answer.
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PART 1
Integrated Writing

Chapter 1 Casting Doubt

Unit 1 Technology

Note Taking & Outlining

A

1 traffic flow faster
2 optimal routes
3 maintenance costs
4 minor problem

B

W: Let’s move on to another piece of technology that we are sure to see in the future. I’m talking, of course, about smart cars. Now, don’t get too thrilled about them. Yeah, it would be nice to have smart cars do all the driving for us, but they probably won’t be as breathtaking as everyone anticipates. Here, let me explain for you.

To begin with, you’ve all seen movies with scenes of smart cars zipping around through traffic, right? Well, unfortunately, that probably won’t be what will happen. It’s a documented fact that, as automobile technology has improved, the amount of traffic has steadily increased. So while we may have cars do the driving for us, you can expect to sit in longer traffic jams. Just because they’re smart cars doesn’t mean that they’ll be smart enough to get you out of a traffic jam.

Second of all, they are not going to be cheap to maintain. “Why?” you may ask. Well, most of the parts of a smart car will be custom-made. This means that, due to the manufacturing process, replacing the parts will be expensive. Sure, the labor bill may be cheap, but the bill for the parts is going to be astronomical in some cases. So think about those things before you get too excited about smart cars, okay?

Reading (Main Points)

1 Smart cars will be able to select the best routes and avoid highly traveled roads, which will decrease the amount of travel time for people.
2 Because computers will warn the owners of impending problems, they can fix the problems while they are still minor, which will not require a large amount of money.

Listening (Refutations)

1 Historically speaking, traffic always becomes worse with each technological development, therefore smart cars will still get stuck in traffic jams.
2 Since many of the parts are custom-made, they have to be manufactured specially, so the cost of replacing them will be much higher than normal.

Paraphrasing & Summarizing

A

1 Smart cars operate by making use of sophisticated technology as well as computers that can think for themselves to some extent.
2 By doing the majority of the driving, a smart car will enable all the passengers, including the driver, to do other things.
3 The car will decide which way it will go by looking at how many cars are on various roads and checking the speed limits of the roads.
4 The computers in a smart car will let their owner know anytime there is a problem, no matter how small it may be.
5 Because the owner can fix the problem while it is still minor, he will not have to suffer a major problem and therefore have to pay lots of money to fix it.

A

Smart cars are not completely developed yet, but they are going to be very important in the future. They will help drivers get to their destinations much faster. They will do this by taking over the driving. This will allow the passengers and driver to do other things, and it will also ensure that the car takes the fastest route possible by avoiding traffic. In addition, owners will not have to pay high maintenance fees. The car’s computers will monitor all possible problems, thereby enabling the owner to fix any problems before they develop into something major. This will then save the owner a lot of money on repair costs.
Even though people would love to let their cars handle the driving, smart cars will probably not live up to their expectations. It is well known that traffic becomes worse as automobiles become more advanced. The artificial intelligence in smart cars will not be sufficient enough to keep the cars from getting stuck in traffic. It is going to be expensive to put the majority of new parts in smart cars because of the way that many of the parts must be made. Even though it will not cost a lot to pay the mechanic for his actual work, it will still be extremely expensive to pay for the replacement parts.

While most people are expecting great things from smart cars, they will probably not be quite as wonderful as people think they will be. Even though vehicular technology is constantly improving, traffic actually becomes worse with every improvement. There will probably be more, not fewer, traffic jams. So, while the cars will be driving themselves, making it easier on the owners, the trips will actually take longer. Also, when the cars need to be maintained with replacement parts, the owners will have to pay a lot of money. Since smart cars are custom-made, the parts are going to be expensive to replace, thereby requiring their owners to spend excessively.

**Synthesizing & Organizing**

A
1 The reading passage claims that smart cars will be able to choose the best routes to arrive at their destinations quickly, but the speaker claims that traffic is going to increase as the technology in cars improves.
2 The author declares that it will take less time to travel and that traffic will always be moving, yet the professor states that there will actually be longer traffic jams than before.
3 In contrast to the statement in the reading claiming that it will be cheap to maintain smart cars, the professor asserts that the manufacturing process involved in creating replacement parts ensures that maintenance costs will be high.
4 Whereas the reading passage asserts that owners will be able to repair their cars cheaply because the problems requiring fixing will be minor, the lecturer declares that the replacement parts themselves are going to cost an incredible amount of money.

B
1 The reading passage and lecture both discuss aspects of smart cars.
2 However, the professor states that smart cars will not be as great as people expect.
3 She gives two reasons why she believes they will not improve on current vehicles.
4 First, the professor asserts that smart cars will not resemble scenes in movies where they move rapidly through cities.
5 She states that, as automobile technology has improved, it has always created more traffic, not less.
6 This contradicts the reading passage, which affirms that smart cars will avoid traffic jams by controlling the routes they drive along.
7 Also, the lecture claims that future traffic jams involving smart cars will be bigger than they currently are.
8 Next, the lecturer mentions the maintenance costs of smart cars.
9 She declares that most smart car parts are custom-made, so they must be specially manufactured, making them incredibly expensive.
10 The reading, however, states that smart cars will tell their owners when they have minor problems, allowing them to be fixed rather cheaply.
11 However, the professor states that, while labor fees will not be expensive, any repair work involving spare parts will be.
12 In conclusion, the professor has a dim view of the future of smart cars, which directly contrasts the opinion of the author of the reading passage, who believes smart cars will be very beneficial.

**Unit 2 Environment I**

**Note Taking & Outlining**

A
1 eat native species
2 enough food
3 soak up all the water
4 regenerate very easily
M: Why don't we discuss a few more invasive species before today's class ends? Now, although we've discussed a lot of harmful invasive species, please remember that they are not always detrimental to the local ecosystem. In fact, I could name a few that have actually been, well, beneficial. Don't believe me? Okay, listen to this.

Everyone knows that Kansas is famous for wheat and Texas is celebrated for cows. Well, they are both, uh, invasive species. And they haven't done any harm to the environment. For example, wheat has not caused the extinction of any local wildlife. It doesn't use up an excessive amount of resources like some invasive species do. And cows, of course, are not predators, so no animals have been killed by them while they graze.

Those are two examples of harmless invasive species. But how about invasive species that are, uh, beneficial? Yeah, it sometimes happens. A perfect case is that of the cane toad, which was introduced for farmers down in Florida, among other places. Cane toads devour many harmful insects, so they keep the bug population down. Also, since the toads eat so many insects, farmers don't have to use any pesticides that could be dangerous to humans. So, cane toads are actually helpful to many people, showing that invasive species sometimes do have benefits.

Reading (Main Points)
1. Invasive species can harm the ecosystem by killing all the native species or eating their food supply.
2. Some nonnative species like the mesquite tree can cause financial damage because of its killing of local plant life or the cost of paying for its removal.

Listening (Refutations)
1. Many invasive species, like wheat and cows, do not have any negative effects on their new ecosystems because they do not kill any of the local plant or animal life.
2. Some invasive species, like the cane toad, which kills bugs and keeps farmers from having to use pesticides that can be harmful to humans, can actually be helpful to people.

Paraphrasing & Summarizing
A:
1. When nonnative species go to a new place, they can often cause many problems because most local environments can be disrupted easily.
2. Some nonnative species hunt and kill native species, occasionally to the point of wiping them out entirely.
3. Some native species have to eat less than their normal diet because invasive species are devouring all of their food.
4. Some invasive species are detrimental because they cause locals to lose money.
5. It is expensive for farmers to have mesquite trees eliminated from a plot of land since they grow back fast.

B:
1. While many invasive species damage their new environments, this is not always the case.
2. It is well known that many farmers grow wheat in Kansas and many ranchers raise cows in Texas.
3. Cows are harmless creatures that do not do anything to other animals while they are out in the fields.
4. The cane toad in Florida, one of the places the animal was introduced, has actually helped the local environment.
5. Because cane toads eliminate many insects, there is no need to fill the environment with potentially harmful pesticides.

C:
Many people believe that all invasive species harm their new environments, but that is not necessarily true. Some nonnative plants and animals do not...
their local ecosystems. Two examples of this are Kansas wheat and Texas cows. The wheat has never killed another local species. Likewise, the cows simply graze in their fields and do not harm others. Also, some invasive species can actually benefit their new homes. The cane toad in Florida is one such example. It kills many insects that eat farmers' crops. Also, its presence means that farmers do not have to resort to using any harmful pesticides on their crops. In this case, the cane toad has truly improved the local environment.

Synthesizing & Organizing

A
1. The reading declares that nonnative species may become predators and hunt native species to extinction, but the professor claims that the growing of wheat, which is a nonnative species, has not resulted in any species becoming extinct.
2. While the author of the reading passage claims that many invasive species can damage their local environments by eating a significant amount of a food source, the lecturer states that cows are not dangerous to their new environments because they have never harmed any other species.
3. In opposition to the claim that mesquite trees kill the local grass so farmers have to pay more for feed, the professor asserts that some invasive species, like the cane toad, are beneficial because they eat lots of harmful insects.
4. Contrasting the reading's assertion that eliminating mesquite trees is expensive to farmers, the professor believes that cane toads are helpful to humans because the land does not require potentially harmful pesticides since the animals eat insects.

B
1. The reading passage and lecture both talk about invasive species, but they disagree as to the effects on their new environments.
2. The professor believes that invasive species have no effect on their environment or are beneficial.
3. However, the reading passage believes they are harmful.
4. The lecturer first states that many invasive species, like Kansas wheat and Texas cows, do not negatively affect the environment.
5. He claims that neither of them has caused the extinction of any species.
6. The reading, however, disagrees and claims that many nonnative species are predators, so they hunt some animals to extinction.
7. Also, they sometimes eat all of an area's food supply, which causes local animals to die of starvation.
8. The professor also asserts that some invasive species can be beneficial to their new environment.
9. He cites the example of the cane toad in Florida.
10. He claims that cane toads eat insects, so they keep the bug population down and allow farmers not to use dangerous insecticides.
11. However, the reading claims that some invasive species, like the mesquite tree, cause financial harm to farmers.
12. The reading states that since mesquite trees kill grass, farmers must pay more for animal feed.
13. It is also expensive to remove them from the land.
14. Clearly, the two passages disagree with one another with regards to the value of invasive species.

Unit 3 Sociopolitics

Note Taking & Outlining

A
1. people's finances
2. the overall economy
3. more expensive
4. public transportation

B

M: While we're on the topic of taxes, let's discuss another touchy issue. I'm referring, of course, to the gasoline tax. I must say that I'm strongly in favor of raising the gas tax for a number of reasons. Allow me to explain a couple of them.

One argument people always like to use against the gas tax is that it will disrupt the economy. Well, I disagree. For one thing, our economy is way too complex for just one factor to hurt the economy. A raise in percentage points in the gas tax wouldn't in any way dramatically harm our economy. Also, there are many other factors that are already doing tremendous economic damage. Health care expenses and fixing the nation's infrastructure are just two of these.

Also, let's think about how people with low incomes would be affected. Yes, the gas tax would take money that they can't afford to spend out of their pockets. However, all it takes is a little creativity to solve this
problem. For example, the government could give tax breaks to people whose incomes are below a certain level. This would, in a sense, give them a rebate on the gas tax. Or the government could also allow people with lower incomes to pay less money when they go to fill up their cars.

very complex
health care
tax breaks
gas stations

Reading (Main Points)
1 Increasing the gasoline tax would be bad for America because it would increase the prices of people’s daily commutes and also reduce spending, which would harm the economy.
2 Raising the gasoline tax would hurt people with low incomes since they would not be able to afford gas and do not have access to good public transportation.

Listening (Refutations)
1 A rise in the gasoline tax would not hurt the economy since the economy is too big to be affected by it and also because there are other problems like health care and infrastructure that are causing economic damage.
2 While a gasoline tax would hurt people with low incomes, the government could give them tax breaks or charge them less for gasoline at gas stations.

Paraphrasing & Summarizing
A
1 People who think increasing the gasoline tax would not hurt the economy are wrong.
2 If the gas tax increases, it will make getting to work and home more expensive for everyone.
3 More spending on gas will cause people to buy fewer other items.
4 People who do not make much money would not be able to afford gas if the gasoline tax goes up.
5 Those with low salaries who live in areas without buses or subways will not have enough money to get to work or drive to other places.

Although some people believe the government should increase the gasoline tax, it would actually harm the economy. First, many people use their cars to drive to work. Raising the gas tax would make these trips more expensive. And then people would spend less money buying other products. The American economy needs people to buy things, or else it will start getting bad. Also, a high gasoline tax would be bad for people who earn low salaries. They might not even be able to afford to drive to work. Since they cannot take public transportation, it would be difficult for them to get around.

Synthesizing & Organizing
A
1 The reading passage declares that increasing the gasoline tax would cause people to pay more money to get to work and home, but the professor claims that the gas tax would not hurt the American economy due to its complexity.
2 The reading claims that people spending more money on gas will purchase fewer other products,
yet the professor claims that there are more pressing issues to the economy, such as health care expenses and fixing the country’s infrastructure.

3 In response to the claim that poor people do not have enough money to pay a more expensive gas tax, the professor states that people with low incomes could be offered tax breaks by the government.

4 While the reading asserts that, due to a lack of public transportation, poor people would not be able to get to work if the gas tax goes up, the lecturer maintains that these individuals could be allowed to pay lower rates for gasoline at gas stations.

The professor firmly disagrees with the reading passage, which states that increasing the gasoline tax would harm the economy. Instead, the professor feels that this would not have a negative effect on the economy.

To begin with, the reading passage declares that an increase in the gasoline tax would make people’s commutes cost more.

The author also mentions that people would therefore spend less money.

Since the American economy needs people to spend money to remain strong, it would start to go into decline.

However, the professor believes the gas tax could not harm the economy since it is too complex to be affected by one tax.

Plus, a gas tax’s effects cannot compare to healthcare costs and the repair of the country’s infrastructure, which are already damaging the current economy.

The reading also states that people with low incomes will not be able to afford gas and may not be able to go to work or anywhere else.

The professor mentions that the government could simply give people tax breaks.

He also thinks that people with low incomes could pay less when they go to gas stations.

The professor and the reading passage are definitely in disagreement over the gasoline tax, and both provide a couple of reasons in defense of their arguments.
Prescribed burning is not cheap because people's salaries and equipment costs must be paid, and it becomes even more expensive if the fire starts to burn out of control.

Listening (Refutations)

Park rangers consult experts to make sure that their fires don't burn out of control, and, if the fires become unpredictable, they have ways to make sure the fires do not become very bad.

Prescribed burning can cause much less damage than natural fires and can help a forest rejuvenate by burning only a small part of it.

Paraphrasing & Summarizing

There are a lot of reasons why prescribed burning does not really help.

Despite the fact that park rangers claim they are careful, a prescribed burning can still suddenly get out of their control.

Sometimes, unpredictable forest fires burn other areas of the forest that the park rangers did not intend to burn.

Initiating and controlling a forest fire can be expensive.

It can become more expensive to gain back control of a fire once it starts to get out of control.

Prescribed burning is the practice of starting forest fires on purpose and controlling them so that they burn a small area of the forest. This method, however, has some disadvantages. The first disadvantage is that the fires can sometimes get out of control. Fires are hard to control, and some prescribed burnings have actually gotten out of control and burned unintended places. In fact, rangers sometimes wind up burning other places because they cannot control the fires. The second disadvantage is the cost involved. Paying people's salaries and equipment costs is expensive. Also, when the fires get out of control, it costs a lot of money to get them back under control.

According to certain environmentalists, prescribed burning actually works.

Park rangers can control prescribed burnings so well that they know which areas will burn and which plants and trees will get burned down.

The professor claims that prescribed burning actually has a number of positive benefits. The first one he cites is that park rangers are able to control these prescribed burnings. Because they consult with experts, they know exactly how to manage these forest fires. Also, if there is a case where the fire starts to get out of their control, they know a number of different methods to regain control. Second of all, the professor claims that natural forest fires cause ten times the damage that prescribed burnings do. Also, natural fires often damage homes and kill people. However, prescribed burnings can take place on a small scale, burn down unwanted areas, and help the forest to rejuvenate.

Synthesizing & Organizing

In contrast to the reading passage's claim that prescribed burnings often get out of control, the professor insists that park rangers can determine exactly where the fire will burn and also which plants and trees it will burn.

The author of the reading passage writes that prescribed burnings might burn places that rangers had not intended, yet the lecturer states that rangers can counter the unpredictable nature of forest fires by using methods to ensure that the fires do not get out of control.

The author of the reading declares that a prescribed burning costs a lot of money; however, the professor counters that claim by stating that forest fires can be much more dangerous and can burn homes and kill people.

The reading passage states that uncontrollably burning fires are expensive to get back into control, but the lecturer insists that these fires can be controlled by the authorities and burn on a small scale.

The lecturer claims that prescribed burnings are
beneficial to forests, yet the reading passage declares the opposite.
2 The professor gives several reasons to counter the arguments in the reading passage.
3 First, in contrast to the claim that prescribed burnings can get out of control, the professor says that park rangers can keep these fires under control.
4 He also claims that rangers consult experts, so they know what they are doing.
5 Also, the professor states that rangers have methods to control unpredictable fires.
6 This is countered by the reading assertion that fires are so unpredictable that they can burn unintended sections of forest.
7 Second, the lecturer declares that natural forest fires can be ten times as dangerous as prescribed burnings and can even kill people.
8 Meanwhile, the reading says that prescribed burnings are too expensive.
9 The reading also states that it costs a lot of money to get a fire back under control.
10 However, the professor mentions that these fires happen on a small scale, thus they are able to be controlled and can also help rejuvenate the forest.
11 The professor and reading clearly disagree with one another with regards to the usefulness of prescribed burning.

Reading (Main Points)
1 Educational visual aids can both ²get the attention of students and ³explain difficult topics by using computer graphics or animation.
2 Visual aids are ⁴cheaper than books, which can be helpful to students on tight budgets, and schools only need ⁵one copy, so they can spend their money on other necessities.

Listening (Refutations)
1 Visual aids often provide limited information due to ⁶time constraints, and they often rely upon ⁷simplified explanations.
2 Educational visual aids can be ⁸much more expensive than books and also require expensive DVD players and TVs, equipment that can sometimes ⁹break down.

Paraphrasing & Summarizing
1 Despite the fact that some traditionalists are opposed to visual aids, they are actually beneficial to use.
2 Teachers can get students to pay attention if they show them DVDs or videotapes.
3 Since they use graphics and animation, visual
aids can help students understand even difficult explanations.

4 The price of books may be two or three times higher than that of DVDs or videotapes.

5 Because schools will save a lot of money by purchasing visual aids, they can use the money to buy other things that they may need.

Synthesizing & Organizing

A

1 The author of the reading declares that visual aids will enable teachers to capture their students’ attention; however, the professor counters by saying that videos tend to be incomplete, thereby providing insufficient information.

2 The reading mentions that visual materials can take difficult processes and explain them easily with computer graphics or animation, yet the professor believes these materials are designed to entertain, not to educate, people.

3 In contrast to the reading, which states that books are two or three times more expensive than DVDs or videotapes, the professor claims that educational visual aids are never cheaper than books.

4 While the reading passage mentions that schools can save a lot of money by purchasing visual materials, the professor states that it is not possible to watch a DVD without an expensive DVD player and TV set.

B

1 It is preferable to read a book than to watch a DVD or video.

2 Visual materials may not contain all the information that they should.

3 Entertaining, not educating, is the purpose of most visual materials.

4 Educational visual materials are more expensive than DVDs and videotapes of movies.

5 Without purchasing an expensive DVD player and TV, you cannot watch a DVD.

B

The professor feels that reading books is a much preferable alternative to watching visual materials like DVDs and videotapes. First, she states that visual materials often provide incomplete information because they have to be so short. Books, on the other hand, hold much more information. Also, visual materials tend to simplify things since they are more interested in entertaining people instead of educating them. Also, the professor says that books are actually cheaper than DVDs and videotapes. The reason is that educational visual aids can be much more expensive than movies. Also, a person with a DVD needs to purchase a DVD player and a TV, which will cost more money to keep up.
But the lecturer states that people still need to purchase expensive and unreliable DVD players and TVs.
The professor and reading passage stand on opposite sides of the debate over the usefulness of visual materials.
workers recognize that they are being outworked by younger employees, which causes their opinions of their value to the company to decline. Realizing they are not as productive as they could be and that they are weighing down their employers with their presence, they simply quit their jobs.

Let me carry on with some examples as to how we fail to help the elderly reach their full potential as workers.

Lots of older people would consider working only a few hours a week. By only working part-time, the elderly would not tax their brains and could remain interested in their work. Many people in their teens and twenties are arrogant know-it-alls, but their knowledge pales in comparison to those more than twice their age. The effects of being consulted would be to make the older employees feel that they belong and also to make use of the stores of knowledge that have built up by their long years of employment.

The professor believes that it is pointless for people in their fifties to retire and not work anymore, so she provides some suggestions to get people to stop retiring so early. She thinks that instead of working full-time, elderly people should be allowed to work part-time. This measure would keep the employees fresh and eager to do their jobs. Also, companies should try to involve their elderly employees in more activities and ask them for their opinions on various things. This effort would give elderly workers the confidence they require and, at the same time, also help their companies by having them rely upon people with many years of experience.

The reading passage mentions a couple of reasons as to why elderly employees are retiring in their fifties before they are required to do so. The professor provides a couple of solutions for the problems that were mentioned in the reading passage. The first problem the reading mentions is that employees often retire after getting burned out and bored from repeatedly doing the same work. So the professor believes companies should allow elderly employees to work part-time, which will preserve their interest in their jobs. Also, working part-time will keep the elderly from being bored at work and will keep their minds fresh. Another problem leading to early retirement is that elderly employees compare themselves with younger employees and notice that they do less work and are burdening their companies. Therefore, the professor suggests that companies could give their elderly employees many different tasks to do. Additionally, companies could consult elderly employees on a more regular basis and draw upon their many years of experience. By doing so, companies could make their older employees feel as though they are contributing more.

In conclusion, while the reading passage mentions a couple of important problems, the professor provides two methods that should effectively neutralize these problems and enable the elderly to contribute to their employers while not obligating them to take early retirement.
Unit 7 Education

Note Taking & Outlining

A

1. quality education
2. school's academic rank
3. state universities
4. general management

B

M: I'm sure many of you just got your tuition bills, and I know that most of you weren't pleased. Tuition went up by 5% this year for the fifth year in a row. Running a college is getting to be too expensive, but there are a few ways to offset this without raising your fees.

Everyone wants to improve our school's quality. But, you know, money isn't totally necessary to do this. For example, we should be looking at ourselves to improve our school. Take professors, for example. We could augment the quality of our lectures as well as develop better curriculums. And you, the students, could perform better both at school and after graduation. That would help increase our school's ranking without us spending much money or raising tuition.

Here's another idea, especially for engineering or science-heavy schools like ours. We should seek close ties with corporations. Why should we do this? Well, both of us will benefit. First, we'll get free state-of-the-art facilities, which both students and faculty will be able to use. And second, the corporations will get the inside track on recruiting our students to work for them once they graduate. And the corporations will know the students got an excellent education because they helped contribute to it. It's a win-win situation for both parties.

Listening (Solutions)

1. In order to improve the school, professors can improve 1) curriculums and lecturing while students can do better both in the classroom and 2) after graduation.
2. Schools should increase 3) their ties with corporations so that they may receive free, exceptional facilities while the corporations will be able to recruit the students who learned with those facilities.

Paraphrasing & Summarizing

A

1. The large raises in tuition upset a lot of students even though schools have some good reasons for increasing the price of school.
2. Schools have to be more competitive in recruiting new students since not as many students are going to school as there used to be.
3. Good students will be more interested in attending a school that has a high academic ranking.
4. Because states are contributing less money to universities, the schools need to raise the necessary money by using other methods.
5. The department that runs the school is fairly unremarkable, but, without it, the school would encounter many problems.

A

Even though students at universities are not pleased about 1) tuition increases, the schools have some good reasons for doing so. First, they have to improve themselves academically to 2) attract more students, especially since fewer students are going to college nowadays. This requires money. So does raising the school's 3) academic ranking, which will in turn attract better students to the school. Also, a lot of schools receive funding from 4) various states. However, they are receiving less funding nowadays. Also, 5) the general management departments at these schools need enough money to run properly, or else the school will suffer. The schools therefore need to raise tuition to get more money.

C

Reading (Problems)

1. Schools need more money to improve 1) the quality of education and increase the school's 2) academic ranking if they want to attract more and better students.
Even though maintaining a school costs more every year, schools can still manage not to increase the price of tuition.

The members of the school body, including both students and faculty, should be able to make the school better by their own actions.

An inexpensive way to improve the school that does not require a tuition hike is for the students themselves to do better.

The schools will be able to receive outstanding new facilities which can be accessed by everyone attending and working at the schools.

Since the companies were somewhat responsible for the students' educations, they will be aware of the high quality of education that the students have received.

It actually is possible for universities to increase the quality of education that they offer without having to raise students' tuition. First, both the faculty and students can improve themselves. The faculty can teach and prepare for classes better, and the students can improve their performance as well. These actions should increase the school's academic ranking without a need for a tuition hike. Also, schools should strike agreements with corporations. The corporations can provide the schools with excellent free facilities. The schools in turn will produce well-educated students that the companies will then be able to recruit much more easily. This will also help schools avoid raising the cost of tuition.

The schools will be able to receive outstanding new facilities which can be accessed by everyone attending and working at the schools.

Since the companies were somewhat responsible for the students' educations, they will be aware of the high quality of education that the students have received.

**Synthesizing & Organizing**

1. The reading passage mentions that universities can attract students by giving them an excellent education, so the professor responds by claiming that professors can improve the quality of their lectures while also preparing for class better.
2. The writer claims that an improvement in the school's academic ranking will cause more and better students to attend, which leads the professor to declare that the students can do a better job when attending school and after graduating.
3. In response to the reading passage author's claim that cuts in the general funding of schools makes them have to look for funds elsewhere, the professor responds by saying that schools should make closer ties with corporations.
4. The writer claims that general management funds are disappearing, so the lecturer states that schools could get state-of-the-art facilities for free from various companies.

**Environment**

**Note Taking & Outlining**

A

1. clog water pipes
2. reproduce very rapidly
3. natural enemies
4. environmentally-safe way

B

W: Yes, the zebra mussel is one of the worst invasive species to hit America. Scientists estimate it has cost billions of dollars in damages. While it's causing...
problems, there are a couple of methods that could help mitigate the damage it's causing. Let me explain.

One, everyone knows zebra mussels moved from Russia to America by traveling on boats. Well, there must be better decontamination procedures implemented to kill any mussels found hitchhiking on boats. Before a boat enters a lake or river system, the ship's ballast should be sterilized with sea water, which kills the mussels. And the entire ship needs to be checked. Zebra mussels can survive out of water for several days, so the anchor chains and other parts out of water need to be decontaminated as well.

Two, there are some species of birds and fish that eat zebra mussels. For example, some ducks feed on them. Likewise, croakers, carp, and sturgeon are also their natural predators. These species should be introduced to the waterways. Unfortunately, there are not enough of these birds and fish to make an impact on the mussels' numbers. Researchers must discover a way quickly to increase the numbers of these species in the hope that they will start to make a dent in the number of mussels. This effort will help control their expansion.

1 sterilize ships' ballast
2 survive out of water
3 birds and fish
4 reduce the number of mussels

Reading (Problems)
1 Zebra mussels have invaded America's waterways, where they clog water pipes and smother the spawning grounds of various fish and other mussels.
2 The zebra mussels have few natural enemies, and there are no environmentally-safe methods to kill them, so scientists have not been able to reduce their numbers.

Listening (Solutions)
1 Before entering a waterway, ships' crews should sterilize their ballast with salt water, and they must check the entire ship since mussels can survive for days out of water.
2 There are birds and fish that eat the mussels, so scientists must introduce them to the area and get their numbers to grow quickly so they can start reducing the mussel population.

Paraphrasing & Summarizing
A:
1 When a top predator appears in a new environment, it can wreak havoc on an ecosystem and completely wipe out many species.
2 While it comes from Russia, the zebra mussel now lives in American waterways like the Great Lakes.
3 Since zebra mussels have a high rate of reproduction, they can overrun the spawning grounds of other species, which keeps these species from growing larger in number.
4 In North America, the zebra mussel does not have many predators, which makes it difficult to find a natural solution to remove them from waterways.
5 If zebra mussels continue to expand their territories, all of America's lakes and river systems will have problems with them.

B:
1 There are some ways to solve the problems the zebra mussel is causing.
2 The crew needs to sterilize the ship's ballast with salt water to kill the mussels prior to entering any waterway.
3 Zebra mussels do not always live in the water, so crews need to search for them in every part of the ship that has touched water in order to eliminate them all.
4 Some animals and fish hunt zebra mussels.
5 If scientists can get the predators of the zebra mussel to reproduce quickly, these animals will be able to reduce the number of mussels.
While the zebra mussel has caused extremely expensive amounts of damage to America's waterways, there are some ways to control their numbers. First, crew members on ships can do a couple of things. They can fill the ship's ballast with sea water since that will kill them. Also, they should check the entire ship for mussels because they can survive out of water for a few days. In addition, there are some predators that will prey upon the zebra mussels. These should be introduced to the waterways. Finally, since there are not enough of these predators, people need to make sure they reproduce rapidly. These solutions can then reduce the number of zebra mussels.

Synthesizing & Organizing

The reading passage author writes that the mussels can travel easily since they attach themselves to the bottoms of boats, so the professor responds by arguing that the ship's ballast should be filled with sea water to kill them.

According to the professor, the entire boat should be decontaminated, even the parts out of water, so that the mussels will not be able to survive and harm the spawning grounds of other species, just like the reading passage described.

As a response to the reading passage claim that there are few natural predators in North America which can remove zebra mussels, the professor mentions that people should introduce some of the zebra mussel's natural predators to the waterways.

Because there is no environmentally-safe way to kill zebra mussels, the professor declares that researchers need to increase the number of predators so that these animals can start reducing the number of zebra mussels.

The professor talks about different ways to reduce the number of zebra mussels from America's waterways.

This is an invasive species from Russia that is causing many problems in America's rivers.

The professor provides a couple of solutions to this infestation problem.

First, he notes that all ships entering waterways should be sterilized with sea water, which kills the mussels.
PART 2
Independent Writing

Chapter 3  Agree / Disagree

Unit 9  Living & Thinking

Understanding the Topic

4 Young people think looks are everything → become too superficial / Cosmetic surgery business booming → waste of money
5 Students judging one another only by appearance / A story about a mom who wasted her child’s college money for plastic surgery for herself

Brainstorming

1 young people - looks & fashion = everything
2 become too superficial
3 e.g. students judge one another by looks, not personality or character
4 cosmetic surgery booming
5 waste of money
6 e.g. story about mom who spent child’s university savings on plastic surgery

Outlining

B

1 Cosmetic surgery business is booming.
   - individuals waste money on improving appearance
   - e.g. read an article about a mom who spent her child’s university money on plastic surgery for herself
2 Young people think looks and clothes are everything.
   - become superficial and narrow-minded
   - e.g. groups at school include others because of how they look, not for their true character

Writing the Thesis Statement & Topic Sentences

B

Thesis statement People place too much emphasis on appearance and fashion.

Topic sentence 1 Judging from the increase in cosmetic surgery recently, it is obvious that some people consider their appearance to be more important than anything else.

Topic sentence 2 Many young people believe that how a person looks is the most important quality in an individual.

Summary In conclusion, the increase in cosmetic surgery and the weight young people put on appearance and fashion show how individuals in general place too much importance on how they look.

Writing the Details

B

[Opening sentence] Today, more than ever, many people seem obsessed with how they look. [Thesis statement] Unfortunately, a large number of people place too much emphasis on their personal appearance and fashion.

[Topic sentence 1] One example of this is the amount of cosmetic surgery many people are having these days. Judging from the increase in cosmetic surgery recently, it is obvious that some people consider their appearance to be more important than anything else. [General statement 1] Because of their infatuation with how they look, they waste their money, which they could spend on more important things, and have cosmetic surgery instead. [Example 1] For example, a magazine article reported on a mother who became addicted to cosmetic surgery and was obsessed with improving her appearance. Eventually, she ended up spending her daughter’s entire college savings to satisfy her vanity. Because of this mother’s actions, her daughter will have difficulty attending college in the future. Sadly, this is not an isolated case, as many more people are wasting money to have surgery. [Closing sentence 1] In these instances, cosmetic surgery can have serious negative financial side effects on people and their families.

[Topic sentence 2] Also, many young people believe that how a person looks is the most important quality in an individual. [General statement 2] This mentality can make people become very superficial and narrow-minded, characteristics they will keep for the rest of their lives. [Example 2] Many students tend to value and accept others into their circle of friends for the sole reasons of how good they look and how fashionable they are. Because of this tendency, many students ignore the true personalities of their classmates and focus upon whether or not they look good. As these students grow
older, they will continue to judge people based on their appearance rather than on their character, which may create later conflicts or problems. [Closing sentence 2] Undeniably, these days, young people focus too much on a person’s outside, that is, his or her looks, and not enough on the person’s inside, which is his or her personality.

[Summary] In conclusion, the increase in cosmetic surgery and the weight young people put on appearance and fashion show how individuals in general place too much importance on how they look. These two factors can have negative consequences for people, however. [Final comment] People should be concerned about their entire being, not just what they show on the outside.

Completing & Checking Your Essay

A

Agree

Some people like to spend their hard-earned money on short-term pleasures such as summer vacations. However, I think it is better to spend money on things like expensive jewelry, which will last a long time, because these items will give people enjoyment for years and years and will also be solid investments for people’s retirements.

Short-term pleasures are exactly that: short term. Purchasing expensive items is better because of their longevity. That is, people will have opportunities to enjoy them for a much longer period than, for instance, a one- or two-week vacation. For example, when they were younger, my grandparents saved their money and bought a small country home. For years, they vacationed there in the summer. However, that was not their only intention. They planned for it to remain in the family for as long as possible so that future generations could also enjoy it. In this sense, it is desirable that people buy more expensive items which will last a long time because they will be able to enjoy them for a much greater period of time.

Also, purchasing things that last a long time could allow people to retire earlier. If they use their money wisely by investing in valuable items, they will be able to gain large returns on them and enjoy their lives for longer periods after retiring. Furthermore, they will not have to work as long as people who do not purchase long-lasting, valuable items that increase in value. For example, my uncle always invested his money in diamonds instead of spending it on short-term pleasures such as trips, and, thanks to the money he earned from his investments, he was able to retire at the age of fifty. In the long run, investing clearly outweighs spending.

In conclusion, I firmly believe that people should spend their money on long-lasting items because they will enjoy them for a longer period of time and possibly even be able to retire earlier than they had expected if they have invested wisely. While trips and other short-lived pleasures may be fun, they are not really good uses of a person’s money.

Disagree

While some people say it is best to spend money on long-lasting items such as jewelry, I totally disagree with their opinion. Purchasing expensive items leaves people with not enough money for them to enjoy other pleasures in their lives.

First of all, long-lasting items such as jewelry require people to spend large sums of money. If someone invests in these items, that person may not have enough money to buy anything else. Furthermore, things that last a long time are usually put away for safekeeping and are never really enjoyed by their owners. For example, a friend of my father’s sometimes spent much of his salary on expensive necklaces and earrings for his wife. Of course, she was happy, but she never wore them for fear of losing them. Also, they could never buy other nice things for themselves because he spent all of his money on buying her jewelry. Spending money on long-lasting things only ties up people’s money and reduces the quality of their lives.

Also, individuals who buy long-lasting items will miss out on enjoying their lives by doing things like traveling. Once they spend all of their money on expensive items such as jewelry, they will have nothing left to do the things they want to do, like, for example, see the world. This situation is very sad because life is short, and no one knows what the future will bring. People should spend money for their current enjoyment rather than save it for the distant future. For instance, my great uncle always invested his money in old books instead of taking his family on vacations and spending time with them. Because of this, his family never had the opportunity to travel together and make wonderful memories that would last for years. Instead of spending money on long-lasting things, people should instead spend their money on fun-filled trips with friends or family.
In conclusion, people who spend money on long-lasting, expensive items like jewelry limit their ability to buy other things for themselves and deprive themselves of the opportunity to travel and truly enjoy life. People should spend their money on fun things and not worry about the fact that they are short-term pleasures because you never know what the future will bring.

### Understanding the Topic

#### Cheaper & travel for a longer period
- Not restricted by schedule → freedom to do whatever one wants
- Older brother backpacked in Southeast Asia → more economical, could see more, & travel longer
- Mom and Dad traveled to Europe on their own → more freedom & better overall experience

#### Brainstorming

1. cheaper
2. travel for a longer period
3. e.g. brother backpacked in Southeast Asia
4. no restrictions
5. free to do anything
6. e.g. Mom and Dad traveled independently in Europe

#### Outlining

1. Cheaper
   - travel for a longer time
   - e.g. older brother backpacked in Southeast Asia → traveled longer because saved money compared to group tour
2. No restrictions
   - freedom to do anything → eat and stay wherever you want
   - e.g. parents enjoyed independent travel over group tour in Europe

### Writing the Thesis Statement & Topic Sentences

#### Thesis statement
I believe that it is much better for individuals to travel independently than to take a costly group tour.

#### Topic sentence 1
Traveling by oneself is much more economical than a group tour.

#### Topic sentence 2
Traveling by oneself is not as restrictive as going on a group tour.

### Summary
In conclusion, traveling by oneself is the best option because it is not as expensive or as restrictive as group tours. Traveling alone enables people to take longer trips and have more positive experiences than traveling in a large group.
taken them to see. [Closing sentence 2] Clearly, traveling on one's own gives people more freedom, which is something people do not often have when they go on group tours.

[Summary] In conclusion, traveling by oneself is the best option because it is not as expensive or as restrictive as group tours. Traveling alone enables people to take longer trips and have more positive experiences than traveling in a large group. [Final comment] People who want to be free to determine their own trips should always avoid group tours and travel by themselves.

Completing & Checking Your Essay

A

Agree

Movies and television play important roles in the lives of many people. However, when it comes to young people, the effects of movies and television are usually more negative than positive because they promote violence and laziness.

Visual media today is simply too violent for young people. Because of this violence, the young are taught that fighting and guns are solutions to their problems, and some of them may actually take similar violent actions themselves. They are too young to differentiate between the fiction of TV and movies and the reality of their lives. Furthermore, young people become desensitized to violence because it is all over television and movies. One example is the increase of violence at my school over the past few years. One of my teachers told us that when she started working at the school, there were hardly ever any fights. Yet today, there are more and more of them. She believes the reason for these fights is the excessive violence students see in movies and on television. It is obvious that they have negative effects on young people when it comes to violence.

Another negative effect movies, and especially television, have on young people is that they make children and teens lazy. Young people watch too much television instead of doing other activities like their homework or interacting with their families. In fact, these days, many articles on the Internet discuss how people watching too much television is one of the major causes of this situation. Students are spending more time in front of their TVs than they are reading books or doing their homework, and their grades are suffering from it. If they continue with this situation, they will not perform well in their jobs later in their lives, and they will lack the motivation to improve their lives. Clearly, TV and movies are making young people much less diligent.

In conclusion, movies and television have negative effects on young people today because children and teens often imitate the violence they view and they simply spend too much time watching television instead of focusing on their studies. Watching fewer movies and TV programs would probably have a more positive impact on young people in general these days.

Disagree

Many people today blame movies and TV for having negative effects on young people. I completely disagree with this notion because the right kind of movie or television program can be highly educational as well as motivational.

Of course, there is a lot of trash on TV and the big screen these days. However, if parents guide their kids and have them watch worthwhile programs such as documentaries or even the news, their children can learn important information instead of just being entertained. For example, my father has always enjoyed watching the documentary Animal Planet, and he has gotten me into it as well. I never realized how much I was fascinated by animals and how complex their lives really are. Actually, I have even considered becoming a veterinarian mainly because of my exposure to Animal Planet. Without TV, I may never have found what I want to do as my career. Television and movies can definitely have positive effects on young people these days.

Also, movies and television can open up our eyes to the world. Without visual media, our world would be a much smaller place, and certain shows can motivate us to make the world we live in a better place. In this sense, they can have very positive effects on young people by encouraging them to change the world. For example, I often watch the Discovery Channel, which has programs on problems such as diseases and food shortages that people face in Africa. Eventually, with my parent's help, I began to donate some money each month to help people in Africa. Without television, I would not have known how serious the situation was there and would never have tried to help. In this way, because of TV, I was motivated to help poor and desperate people in far-off lands whom I do not even know.

In summary, television and movies can have very positive effects on young people because they can educate them about the world and motivate them to do
good deeds. Television opens up the world around us and can be a positive aspect in anyone's life so long as that person avoids all of the trivial programming.

Unit 11 School & Education I

Understanding the Topic
4 Have more free time → more study time for harder classes / Get a higher GPA → more scholarship money
5 Easy course load → do well in ethics class, my most difficult class / Older sister got high grade → got scholarship

Brainstorming
1 have more free time
2 more study time for harder classes
3 e.g. did well in difficult ethics class
4 get a higher GPA
5 more opportunity for scholarships
6 e.g. older sister boosted GPA & got a scholarship

Outlining

B

Writing the Details

[Opening sentence] Some university students take difficult courses, and their GPAs, as well as their lives, begin to suffer. [Thesis statement] High grades are the most important objectives at college or university, and a good GPA can only be maintained by taking some easy courses.

[Topic sentence 1] To begin with, taking easier classes will free up time for students. [General statement 1] Easier classes will give them more time to study for their tougher mandatory subjects and also let them get out and meet new people. [Example 1] For instance, my ethics class is the only hard class I currently have. Because I don’t really have to study for my other classes too much, I can focus more attention on my ethics class and therefore do better in it. If all of my classes were hard, I would never have enough time to do well in every one of them. [Closing sentence 1] All in all, easy classes are the best bet because they will give students more time to focus on the classes they find difficult.

[Topic sentence 2] Also, taking easier classes will boost students' GPAs. [General statement 2] Having high grades will allow students to gain more scholarships and fund their educations. However, if students took only hard classes, their GPAs would decrease, and funding would not be available to them. [Example 2] For example, my older sister took a basic math class in college and got an A+ in it. This high grade made her GPA skyrocket and helped her get an academic scholarship the next semester. If she had taken an advanced math course, she probably would have gotten a lower grade and would not have received the scholarship. [Closing sentence 2] Taking easier classes is therefore necessary to get a high GPA.

[Summary] It is clear that taking easier courses is beneficial for students because it will give them more time to study for their most difficult classes, thereby helping them get good GPAs. [Final comment] Top-notch grades can only be secured by taking the easiest classes available and avoiding the difficult ones.
Completing & Checking Your Essay

Agree

Most students rush directly from high school to college without taking a break. However, I believe it is more beneficial to take a yearlong break before entering university because it will give me a chance to read many books and to earn extra money for college.

A yearlong break between high school and university would give me time to read various books before entering university. Before I enter university, I will have to spend most of my time preparing for the college entrance exam and will not have much time to read as I would like. A year's break will give me a chance to read as well as recharge my batteries to get ready for a demanding university schedule. I usually use my summer and winter vacation to catch up on my reading and keep my mind active. Still, there are many books that I have not read. A yearlong break would give me ample opportunity to catch up on my reading and prepare me for a college reading load.

Also, the yearlong break would give me a chance to do a part-time job to save money for college. I know my parents can pay for my tuition with little problem, but I would like to take some responsibility and save some money myself at least to help out. My sister is a good example of this. Before she entered college, she worked for a year to save money for college. She said the money came in very handy once she was in school. She also felt good about not having to ask our parents for spending money all the time. Therefore, in my opinion, a yearlong break is a good idea for students to work and save some money for college.

In summary, taking a year's break would definitely be beneficial to me because it would give me time to read extensively and earn supplemental money for college. Reading will prepare my mind for college, and working will allow me to save extra money without having to rely on my parents. Without a year's break, these two excellent opportunities would not be available to me.

Disagree

While some students might think it is good idea to take a yearlong break before entering university, I completely disagree for a number of reasons. First, if a student takes a yearlong break, he might forget much of what he learned at school. Second, a student who takes a break from school may never enroll in university at all.

To begin, a year is a long time for a young person, so it may cause the person to lose much of the knowledge he worked so hard to attain. Because of the large time gap between high school and college, once a student enters college, he will have a hard time readjusting to the classroom. He also runs a high risk of doing poorly in university or college and perhaps may even drop out permanently. For example, I read a magazine article about a student who took a yearlong break between high school and university. He regretted that he ever did such a thing. By the time he finally entered college, he could not readjust to the classroom atmosphere. He said he lacked the necessary discipline because he had taken such a long break. Unfortunately, he failed most of his classes and finally dropped out of school. Obviously, continuous schooling is the best strategy.

Furthermore, if a student takes a long break, he may lose interest in university altogether or simply never enroll. Some students who take time off and get jobs become obsessed with making money. Money, not education, rules their world, so they forget about college, which would give them a better quality of life in the long run. My neighbor always tells me to stay in school because, with the education I will receive there, I will have a more lucrative career in the future. My neighbor had the opportunity to go to college but did not go immediately, so he eventually gave up school for a full-time job. Though he likes his job, he has fewer opportunities for promotions because he never graduated from university. Staying in school removes the risk of becoming sidetracked and missing out on better, higher paying jobs.

In conclusion, students who take yearlong breaks between high school and university run the risks of being unable to adapt to the university climate and failing their classes. They may also have to settle for jobs that are not as profitable as those which college graduates can find. Such a decision will only work against them later in life.

Unit 12 School & Education II

Understanding the Topic

4 Can be faithful to their original duty — fill students with information /
   Make their classes more valuable
5 Some teachers — not friendly but taught the best /
   A young teacher in high school — friendly but had no authority
Brainstorming
1 not paid to be friendly with students
2 my only concern → what a teacher can teach me
3 e.g. some teachers – not friendly but the best
teachers ever
4 some friendly teachers = the worst teachers
5 try to be cool but don’t focus on teaching
6 e.g. a young teacher in high school – hung out with
students → had no authority

Outlining

B Teachers are not paid to be friendly with students.
- my only concern → what a teacher can teach me
- e.g. some teachers in my school days → were not
friendly but taught the best
2 Some teachers who try to be friendly with the
students = the worst teachers
- do not focus on teaching → their classes = wastes
of time
- e.g. a young teacher in high school → friendly with
the students but no discipline

Writing the Thesis Statement & Topic Sentences

B

Thesis statement My best teachers have been people
who did not relate to the students but who instead
managed to teach the class a lot.

Topic sentence 1 Teachers are not being paid to be
friends with students but should instead be filling
them with information. [General statement 1] I am
not interested in hanging out with a teacher but am only
concerned with what he can teach me. [Example 1]
During my school years, I have had many teachers who
were not friendly to the students. In fact, some students
were quite intimidated by them. The students would
never have dreamed of talking to these teachers about
personal matters. However, these teachers were some
of the best I ever had. The lessons they taught me have
stayed with me for years, and I have never forgotten
their classes. In fact, some of them even influenced
me to study more on my own outside of class. [Closing
sentence 1] With these teachers, the fact that they were
unfriendly had nothing to do with how much I learned in
their classes.

Topic sentence 2 Additionally, teachers who try to be
friendly with the students are often the worst ones I
have ever had. [General statement 2] These teachers
are typically more concerned with being cool and having
students like them, so they do not focus on teaching,
which makes their classes complete wastes of time.
[Example 2] Here is one example. One of my teachers in
high school had only graduated from college a few years
earlier. So he was not much older than the students. He
thought he could be friends with the students and hang
out with them. Unfortunately, when he tried to enforce
discipline in the classroom, everyone ignored him. Also,
since he was more concerned with his image, he never
taught very demanding lessons. He almost never gave
homework, and his tests were easy. While getting a high
grade was nice, I realized that I had learned almost
nothing in his class and that it had been a waste of time.
[Closing sentence 2] Because of him, I realized that having
a cool teacher is less important than having a teacher
who takes his classes seriously.

Summary It is better for a teacher to pass on
knowledge to the students than to be able to relate well
to them since it is what he/she is paid for and at least it
will keep him/her from being a bad teacher.

Writing the Details

B

[Opening sentence] Is a teacher’s ability to relate well
with the students more important than the ability to
teach them well? [Thesis statement] My answer to this
question is definitely negative. In my experience, my
best teachers have been people who did not relate to
the students but who instead managed to teach the
class a lot.

[Topic sentence 1] Teachers are not being paid to be
friends with students but should instead be filling
them with information. [General statement 1] I am
not interested in hanging out with a teacher but am only
concerned with what he can teach me. [Example 1]
During my school years, I have had many teachers who
were not friendly to the students. In fact, some students
were quite intimidated by them. The students would
never have dreamed of talking to these teachers about
personal matters. However, these teachers were some
of the best I ever had. The lessons they taught me have
stayed with me for years, and I have never forgotten
their classes. In fact, some of them even influenced
me to study more on my own outside of class. [Closing
sentence 1] With these teachers, the fact that they were
unfriendly had nothing to do with how much I learned in
their classes.

[Topic sentence 2] Additionally, teachers who try to be
friendly with the students are often the worst ones I
have ever had. [General statement 2] These teachers
are typically more concerned with being cool and having
students like them, so they do not focus on teaching,
which makes their classes complete wastes of time.
[Example 2] Here is one example. One of my teachers in
high school had only graduated from college a few years
earlier. So he was not much older than the students. He
thought he could be friends with the students and hang
out with them. Unfortunately, when he tried to enforce
discipline in the classroom, everyone ignored him. Also,
since he was more concerned with his image, he never
taught very demanding lessons. He almost never gave
homework, and his tests were easy. While getting a high
grade was nice, I realized that I had learned almost
nothing in his class and that it had been a waste of time.
[Closing sentence 2] Because of him, I realized that having
a cool teacher is less important than having a teacher
who takes his classes seriously.

[Summary] In conclusion, I strongly feel it is better for
a teacher to pass on knowledge to the students than
to be able to relate well to them since it is what he is
paid for, and at least it will keep him from being a bad
teacher. [Final comment] A teacher that relates well
might be fun for a while, but I go to school to learn, not
to hang out with a teacher and be friends with him.
Completing & Checking Your Essay

A

Agree

I entirely agree with the statement that parents make the best teachers. In the course of my life, I have learned a number of important lessons that were taught to me by my parents and that I could not have learned anywhere else.

To begin with, my parents have taught me about how to live with others and get along well with them. Thanks to my parents teaching me that social lesson, I have been able to get along well with everyone in my family. Not only do I have a mother and father, but I also have a brother and sister. My siblings and I usually get along well, but sometimes we argue and fight with each other. However, my parents taught us that we should learn to look at the other person's point of view, so, many times instead of fighting with one of my siblings, we are able to sit down with each other and calmly talk about our problems. This enables us to solve all of our problems easily. Thanks to my parents, I have learned how to compromise and get along well with others.

Another thing that my parents have taught me is the value of hard work. Because of my parents, I know that I have to work hard if I want to be successful in life. For example, when I was younger, I never really enjoyed school, so I often did not do my homework. Naturally, my grades were very low. My parents told me that I needed to study hard if I wanted to be successful in life. They worked with me to improve my grades. I started working hard, and my grades improved considerably. Now, I get pretty good grades in school, and it is all thanks to my parents for teaching me to work hard.

I truly believe that parents are the best teachers. Of course, we all have many teachers throughout our lifetimes, but our parents can affect us in so many different ways that they are definitely our best teachers.

Disagree

While I understand the logic behind the statement, I must actually disagree with the statement that parents make the best teachers. In my case, I would have to say that my teachers at school have been much better teachers for me than my parents. Allow me to explain my feelings in more detail.

For one, I spend a lot of time with my teachers, and they often teach me lessons that are not so much about book learning but are about life learning. Several of my teachers make classes that are usually boring into fascinating classes that have shown me how the material they are teaching is relevant to life. One example is my history teacher, Mr. Patterson. Before I took Mr. Patterson's class, I never really enjoyed history that much. To me, it was just a lot of old names, dates, and places. However, Mr. Patterson made his classes seem to come alive by the way that he taught history. He also showed us how it is important to learn about the past because we can compare past events to present and even future ones. He has definitely been a great teacher for me.

Also, many of my teachers have encouraged me to be both a good student and an even better person. Through watching many of my teachers, I have learned how to conduct myself in a professional manner. For example, my English teacher, Mr. Thagard, is not only a great teacher but also an excellent person. He is also polite to everyone, even the students. He calls all of the students "Mr." or "Miss" even though we are much younger than he is. He never gets angry or yells at students even when they are impolite to him or forget to turn in their homework. He also always tries to help out students who are not doing well in the class. I have tried to model my behavior on his in an effort to become a real gentleman. He has truly been an excellent teacher in my life.

Throughout our lives, many people, including our parents and friends, act as our teachers. However, I believe that the best teachers are those we have at school. They have taught me many lessons that I will never forget.

Unit 13 Environment & Science

Understanding the Topic

4 Maintain the biodiversity on Earth / Commercial & medicinal benefits of some animals
5 Lack of wild animals in Africa → land is changing / Some spider webs → strong fibers

Brainstorming

1 some animals - useful to people
2 commercial & medical benefits
3 e.g. some spider webs → strong fibers
4 need of biodiversity on Earth
5 too many or too few animals → imbalance of nature
6 e.g. lack of wild animals in Africa → land is changing
like Africa, where wild animals like lions, tigers, and elephants are endangered. Because there are fewer of these animals, the land itself is changing, and this is upsetting the balance of nature. [Closing sentence 1] By setting aside land for endangered animals to live on, people can help to maintain the diversity of nature while not upsetting local ecosystems.

[Topic sentence 2] Second of all, animals are important to humans and should not be allowed to go extinct. [General statement 2] Scientists often learn very much by studying animals in their natural habitats, and many animals can actually benefit humans. [Example 2] For example, some spiders spin webs that humans can use to make very strong fibers. If these spiders were to become extinct, humans would not be able to make use of them at all. There are countless other animals that benefit humans both commercially and medicinally. Besides, many scientists do not yet know how some endangered animals could help people. [Closing sentence 2] By setting aside land for endangered animals, scientists could keep these animals alive and then be able to learn how they could be used to benefit humans.

[Summary] While the needs of humans are important, it is also crucial to set aside land upon which endangered animals may live without the threat of becoming extinct in order to maintain the biodiversity of the planet and human benefits.

[Opening sentence] An enormous number of endangered species of animals live on the planet. [Thesis statement] It is imperative that humans set aside land for these endangered animals to live on even if it means that human needs like farming, housing, and industry are ignored.

[Topic sentence 1] As more and more animals become extinct, the biodiversity of the planet is getting smaller and smaller. [General statement 1] It is important that Earth have large numbers of different species so as to maintain a diverse population of animals. [Example 1] Nature is very delicate. In every ecosystem, all of the animals are important. If there are too many or too few of one species, it could upset the entire balance of the ecosystem. This is already happening in places...
important during the twentieth century, yet people used them too much. Now geologists are telling people that Earth’s supply is running out. Since we need energy to keep our economies running, we will have to work to develop renewable sources of energy.

Second of all, people are more concerned about the environment these days. Fossil fuels often pollute the environment, but renewable sources of energy cause virtually no pollution. In the twenty-first century, many people are focusing on cleaning up the Earth. Also, people are worried about the greenhouse effect, which some scientists believe is caused by the release of carbon dioxide—created by burning fossil fuels—into the atmosphere. The greenhouse effect is believed to be causing global warming, so something needs to be done about this. If people use solar, water, or wind power, they will not be adding any greenhouse gases to the atmosphere. This should help to prevent global warming, and it will also make Earth a much cleaner place.

In the near future, it is highly likely that renewable sources of energy will replace fossil fuels. Considering that the supply of fossil fuels is running out and that they pollute the environment, unlike renewable sources of energy, it is inevitable that people will start relying upon renewable sources of energy soon.

Disagree

Nowadays, many people are talking about renewable sources of energy like solar, wind, and water power. They insist that renewable energy sources will replace fossil fuels in the near future. However, I disagree with these people. In my opinion, humans are going to be using fossil fuels to create energy for many years to come.

First of all, according to many scientists, there is still an enormous supply of fossil fuels on Earth. Many geologists estimate that Earth has gas and oil supplies of over 100 years. The coal supply is even higher. Also, teams of geologists are often announcing they have found new oil and gas fields all over Earth, especially because they can now dig deeper into the ground to extract these fossil fuels. Since there are still so many fossil fuels left on Earth, it is highly unlikely that people are suddenly going to change to renewable sources of energy. For one, people do not often change until they are forced to do so. In addition, machines like cars are becoming more fuel-efficient, and this development will actually help make the supply of fossil fuels last longer because machines are using less energy to operate. Simply put, until people are forced to change energy supplies, they are not going to.

Next, renewable sources of energy are still in their developmental stage. Some people use solar, wind, and water power, yet the number doing so is very small. Also, these renewable sources of energy are not yet very efficient. This means that they actually cost more than fossil fuels while providing less energy. Not only that, but their uses are also often limited. For example, people cannot use solar power if the weather is bad; people who do not live near a body of water cannot use water power; and people who live in areas with little wind cannot make use of wind power. Until researchers discover ways to make renewable energy more efficient and more ubiquitous, people are not going to start using it in place of fossil fuels.

Although many people are attracted to renewable sources of energy, I do not believe they are going to become the dominant form of energy and replace fossil fuels. People see no reason to replace fossil fuels, and the technology to create energy from renewable sources is currently not efficient enough.
Outlining

1 Majority of time spent with friends
   - an important factor in shaping personality and actions
   - e.g. father with the wrong crowd in high school —→ a poor student vs. with the right crowd in university —→ graduated with top marks

2 Similar age and perspective
   - relate to one another better —→ more empathy and understanding
   - e.g. best friend broke up with her boyfriend —→ I gave her support as a friend

Writing the Thesis Statement & Topic Sentences

Thesis statement Friends are by far the most important influence on young adults.

Topic sentence 1 Most young adults spend more time with their friends than anyone else, including their families.

Topic sentence 2 Young adults and their friends are of similar ages and perspectives.

Summary All in all, friends influence young adults more than anything else because they are around each other all the time and they share common viewpoints.

Writing the Details

[Opening sentence] There is no question that young adults are under a lot of stress and are influenced in many ways. [Thesis statement] Among other influences, friends are by far the most important influence on young adults because the majority of their time is spent with their friends, with whom they share similar ages and perspectives.

[Topic sentence 1] For one thing, most young adults spend more time with their friends than anyone else, including their families. [General statement 1] Therefore, a young person’s friends can have profound effects on his personality and actions. [Example 1] A good example of this type of influence occurred with my father. As a high school senior, he tended to hang out with the wrong crowd, so his grades suffered to the point where he almost did not graduate. However, he managed to graduate from high school and eventually made it to college, where he chose his friends more carefully and spent time with serious, goal-oriented students. He ultimately graduated with top grades and still exhibits the positive personality traits he learned from his classmates. [Closing sentence 1] Being around friends can influence young adults constantly in both positive and negative ways.

[Topic sentence 2] Moreover, young adults and their friends are of similar ages and perspectives. [General statement 2] Therefore, they are able to relate to one another better and be more empathetic and understanding because they know what the others are going through. Sometimes even family members cannot relate to a person like his friends can. [Example 2] For instance, my best friend recently broke up with her boyfriend. Of course, she turned to me for support and comfort because she trusts me and knows I understand how she feels. I doubt she could have discussed her intimate feelings about him with her parents or little sister. [Closing sentence 2] In this way, friends are the biggest influence on young adults.

[Summary] All in all, friends influence young adults more than anything else because they are around each other all the time and they share common viewpoints. [Final comment] Friends have the most in common, and they make us who we are.

Completing & Checking Your Essay

A]

Spending Time with One or Two Close Friends

People have many different preferences when it comes to their friends. Some like to have one or two close friends while others enjoy spending time with many people. Personally, I believe it is better to spend most of my time with one or two close friends because the bond between us is tighter, so we are like a family.

Spending time with one or two very close friends builds a tighter bond between people than it would by spending time with a large group. They have more in common and are more apt to understand each other completely. I spend almost all of my time with my best friend, and we have a very close relationship. We never argue and can rely on each other for anything because we are so tight. On the other hand, there are often more misunderstandings and conflicts within a large group of friends. However, I know my best friend will be with me for life. This type of longevity is not possible with a large group of friends.
In addition, having one or two close friends is like having an extended family. The reasons are that the relationship is more intimate and built on trust. I know my best friend will keep my most private secrets. For example, I did really poorly on my English exam, and I got really depressed about it. I would not have dared to have told a large group of friends about it because it was embarrassing, and I knew they would have told everyone in the whole school. However, I needed to talk about it with someone whom I could trust. That person was my best friend. She comforted me and helped me think positively. Plus, she never told anyone else about it. In this respect, spending time with one or two close friends is best.

In conclusion, spending time with one or two close friends is more desirable because the connection is closer than it would be with a group of friends and there is greater trust between these friends. I know I can absolutely count on them for anything.

Spending Time with a Large Number of Friends

Some people really limit themselves by spending all of their time with just one or two close friends. I believe it is best to spend my time with a large number of friends. This will let me to get the most out of life because it will allow me to have an open mind and make me a more outgoing person.

When I spend a lot of time with a large group of friends, my mind becomes open to new worlds. The reason is that a large group offers me many different opinions about life that I have never even thought of. For example, I was always nervous about traveling to a foreign country. But, after listening to the travel experiences and opinions of numerous friends, I decided to give it a shot. What an amazing experience I had in Norway! Without my friends’ influence, I would never have made such a bold move. Because of them, I was able to find the courage to go on my trip and also grow as a person.

Moreover, spending time with a large number of friends makes me a more personable and outgoing person. Because I have a large, diverse group of friends, I am continuously exposed to different personalities, and I have learned how to interact with people better. A good example of this is when my family moved to a new city because of my father’s job. Of course, I had to start a new school. I was alone and did not know anyone. Yet, because I was used to meeting and talking to lots of people, it was easy for me to form new friendships. If I had only spent time with one or two good friends, I would have been shy and less assertive when it came to making new friends. However, since I was used to dealing with lots of different types of people, I was able to make new friends rather easily.

Ultimately, it is better to spend the most time with a large group of friends because they can help open our minds and help us to be more outgoing and sociable. Without them, my life would probably be pretty boring.
Writing the Thesis Statement & Topic Sentences

Thesis statement Human activity continues to harm the Earth in a number of ways.

Topic sentence 1 Coal power plants, which hurt the environment, continue to be used to produce electricity for people.

Topic sentence 2 More and more homes are being constructed to house increasing populations, which destroys ecosystems.

Summary In conclusion, human activity continues to damage the Earth through the use of coal power plants and the construction of homes. Coal power plants create toxins that cause acid rain, which harms bodies of water, and jungles and forests are being cleared to build houses, which reduces animal habitat.

Writing the Details

[Opening sentence] Since the start of the Industrial Revolution, the polluting of the Earth has increased greatly. Lately, however, many people have been trying to clean up the environment. In fact, some believe that the Earth is being mended from the damage done by humans. But this is actually not true. [Thesis statement] In fact, human activity is continuing to harm the Earth in a number of ways.

[Topic sentence 1] One example of this is that coal power plants, which hurt the environment, continue to be used to produce electricity for people. [General statement 1] The toxins these power plants release into the atmosphere cause acid rain, which harms lakes and rivers. [Example 1] In many industrialized countries, lakes that used to be popular for swimming or fishing are now closed because they have been polluted by acid rain. Coal power plants should take much of the blame for this. Many experts say that lakes and rivers, as well as water supplies that people depend on, have been polluted by acid rain caused by greenhouse gases like those emitted from coal power plants. [Closing sentence 1] The continued reliance of people on fossil-fuel-burning coal power plants is causing the destruction of the environment.

[Topic sentence 2] Also, more and more homes are being constructed to house increasing populations of people. The building of these homes requires the destruction of various ecosystems. [General statement 2] Builders often destroy the habitats of many animals and therefore cause them to become extinct. [Example 2] For example, in areas near the rainforests of South America and Africa, populations are increasing, so construction companies must clear away the jungle to build more and more homes. When they do this, they are destroying the habitats of many species of animals. Without a place to live, many species on Earth have become extinct. And many more will become extinct in the future. Once this happens, certain types of animals are lost forever. The reason for this is human negligence. [Closing sentence 2] Human homes are replacing animal ones, which is harming the Earth in general.

[Summary] In conclusion, human activity continues to damage the Earth through the use of coal power plants and the construction of homes. Coal power plants create toxins that cause acid rain, which harms bodies of water, and jungles and forests are being cleared to build houses, which reduces animal habitats. [Final comment] Humans should be more careful of how their actions affect the Earth than they are now.

Completing & Checking Your Essay

The Internet Provides Valuable Information

There is no question that the Internet has changed modern life forever. It provides us with a lot of valuable information, such as instant price comparison shopping and facts for students doing research papers.

Before the creation of the Net, people would go to one or two stores before buying an item. But now, they can price comparison shop online in order to get the best prices on goods. This way of shopping can save them a lot of money. For example, last month, I was in the market for a computer. I went to a couple of stores and thought the prices were a bit high. Later, after checking some websites, I found that I was right. I actually ended up purchasing the exact computer that I saw in the store; however, I got it online for three hundred dollars cheaper than the store was selling it for. Because of my ability to compare prices online, I saved a large amount of money. This would not have been possible before the Internet became widespread. The Internet clearly saves people a lot of money in the long run.

Also, the Internet has a wealth of quick facts and information for students doing research or writing papers. Previously, students would have to be satisfied...
with the limited number of books on various topics at their local or school library. But, thanks to the Internet, they have access to a virtually unlimited amount of information on anything they could ever think of. Plus, the Internet saves them time while researching their papers as well as when they are actually writing them. Today, the Internet increases the amount of information available to students and cuts down on both their research and writing time.

Overall, the Internet is a valuable tool for gathering information for anyone, no matter if that person is a shopper or a student. It saves people money by price comparison shopping and is an excellent, swift research tool. It is amazing that anyone was ever able to do anything before the Internet.

Information on the Net Causes Many Problems

Many people believe the Internet is the answer to everything. In reality, the abundance of information on the Internet causes many problems because it takes a long time for someone to sift through all of it to find exactly what the person is looking for and also because there are many fictitious and deceitful websites that attempt to trick people and take advantage of them.

Whenever I surf the Internet for specific information, I sometimes spend hours clicking on links that lead to dead ends. This is really frustrating because it wastes my time if I am in a hurry. For example, one day I wanted to find a simple map of Switzerland. After a quick search, I had over 1,000 webpage hits for my search. Most of the maps were not of Switzerland itself but were of specific regions of the country or city maps. An hour later, I finally randomly hit a link which led me to a general map of Switzerland. If I had known it was going to take that long, I would have just gone down to my local library, which would have been much faster. Sometimes the abundance of information on the Internet can be too much.

Furthermore, the Internet is full of information which is designed to take advantage of people and get their money. Advertising for winning lottery numbers and spam mail are a couple of the most common examples of this type of misleading information on the Internet. For example, my mother was surfing the Internet and came across a webpage that said she had won a flat screen TV. She immediately called the number, and the person said that she had to buy something from them in order to have her name placed in a contest for the new television. Of course, she was quite upset and immediately hung up. Still, the abundance of information on the Internet can be very misleading to some people and can cause lots of problems, like the one that happened to my mother.

In conclusion, the Internet might seem to be a wonderful world of information, yet when it comes down to it, it is also a sea of misinformation and deceptive links which can lead to frustration and many problems. The Internet could be much more efficient if there were a way to limit the amount of false information on it.

### Unit 16 Business & Economy

#### Understanding the Topic

4 Full benefits — complete health insurance & retirement benefits / More opportunities for advancement → higher salaries & more benefits
5 Recent Internet survey → a majority of large companies provide retirement & comprehensive health care plans / Three or four promotions at large companies vs. just one promotion at small companies over the same period of time

#### Brainstorming

1 full benefits
2 complete health insurance & retirement plans
3 e.g. Internet survey — most large companies provide full benefits
4 more opportunities for advancement
5 higher salaries & more benefits
6 e.g. 3 or 4 promotions at large companies vs. 1 promotion at small companies

#### Outlining

B

1 Full benefits packages
   - workers have complete health insurance & retirement plans
   - e.g. Internet survey → a majority of large companies provide retirement & health care plans
2 More opportunities for advancement
   - employees receive higher salaries & more benefits
   - e.g. 3 or 4 promotions at large companies vs. 1 promotion at small companies over the same period of time
Writing the Thesis Statement & Topic Sentences

Thesis statement While small companies might initially seem enticing because of their more relaxed environments, large companies are actually better places to work at due to the greater financial benefits and opportunities for advancement that they offer.

Topic sentence 1 Unlike many small companies, nearly all large companies provide generous benefits packages to their employees.

Topic sentence 2 Another way in which large companies are better than small ones is that large companies provide their workers with more opportunities for advancement.

Summary In conclusion, large companies are definitely better places to work at than small companies. First, they provide better financial packages, and second, they give their employees more chances to get promotions and higher status.

Writing the Details

[Opening sentence] Many people opt to work at small companies, where the atmospheres are not as fast paced as they are at large companies. [Thesis statement] While small companies might initially seem enticing because of their more relaxed environments, large companies are actually better places to work at due to the greater financial benefits and opportunities for advancement that they offer.

[Topic sentence 1] Unlike many small companies, nearly all large companies provide generous benefits packages to their employees. [General statement 1] This saves money for employees and also provides them with health insurance and retirement benefits. On the other hand, many employees at small companies receive fewer benefits. Those employees may have to pay for their own health insurance, which can cost them thousands of dollars a year. [Example 1] A recent Internet survey conducted by a leading financial magazine showed that a significant majority of the large companies that responded provide retirement and comprehensive health care plans for their employees. In comparison, a very small number of small companies offered the same benefits to their workers. [Closing sentence 1] When it comes to offering more than just basic compensation, large companies provide much more than small ones.

[Topic sentence 2] Another way in which large companies are better than small ones is that large companies provide their workers with more opportunities for advancement. [General statement 2] Since there are more positions available at large companies, the workers can get promotions much faster than their counterparts at small companies can. [Example 2] For example, workers at large companies might get three or four promotions during a several-year period while a worker doing the same job at a small company may get just one promotion. Naturally, these promotions come with higher salaries and more benefits, so they can help to advance workers' careers. [Closing sentence 2] For ambitious employees who are eager to improve their status at their workplaces, large companies simply offer many more chances than small ones do.

[Summary] In conclusion, large companies are definitely better places to work at than small companies. First, they provide better financial packages, and second, they give their employees more chances to get promotions and higher status. [Final comment] Money and advancement are two of the main reasons that people work, so it seems natural that more people would want to be employed at large companies.

Completing & Checking Your Essay

Spending Money on Space Exploration

Many people are in favor of spending large amounts of money on exploring space, particularly the moon and other planets. I fully agree with these people for several different reasons. For one, we are running out of space on Earth and need to colonize other planets. And, second of all, exploring space will help people learn much more and increase their knowledge in many different fields.

The population of Earth continues to increase every year while Earth's natural resources are becoming depleted. For these reasons, we should consider moving off of space on Earth and need to colonize other planets. And, second of all, exploring space will help people learn much more and increase their knowledge in many different fields.

The population of Earth continues to increase every year while Earth's natural resources are becoming depleted. For these reasons, we should consider moving off of the planet and colonizing either the moon or some other planets. This will accomplish two things. It will allow large numbers of people to migrate to other planets, thereby easing the population crisis on Earth. And it will enable us to utilize the natural resources of other planets, thereby helping to preserve Earth's. By exploring space now, governments can obtain the
knowledge they need to be able first to travel to other planets and then to colonize them. For example, recent unmanned visits to Mars have shown that, with the proper technology, Mars could be made inhabitable for humans. However, governments need to spend more money on the space program to be able to invent the necessary technology. By spending money now, the payoff in the future can be tremendous.

Second, governments should spend more money on exploring outer space simply because it will help increase human knowledge. The space program has already helped astronomers learn much about the universe and everything in it. Also, the space program has helped people learn more about Earth. By providing more funding for space programs, we can increase this body of knowledge. Indeed, many discoveries and inventions by the space program have helped to improve life on Earth in many different fields, including technology and medicine. By continuing to fund space programs, surely there will be even more advances made in these fields.

I strongly believe that governments should continue to fund their countries' space programs. These programs will not only help humans eventually leave Earth and colonize other planets but also contribute to the knowledge that we possess on Earth. Countries should be encouraged to support their space programs. Doing so will improve the lives of people both on Earth and off of it.

**Spending Money on Basic Needs on Earth**

While many governments like to spend large sums of money on space exploration, this actually does little to benefit the citizens of those countries. Governments instead should focus on spending the majority of their funds on the basic needs of the citizens of their countries.

One of the most basic needs for people is health care. Unfortunately, most governments have not ensured that their citizens have access to quality health care. If governments were to spend more money on even the most basic health care, the quality of life for their citizens would increase dramatically. The countries themselves would benefit from investing in health care because their citizens would be healthier and live longer lives, which would then increase the overall productivity of the workers in those countries. Furthermore, in advanced countries such as the United States, where health care costs are a major cause of bankruptcy, governments could help relieve citizens of the burden of expensive health care. By spending more money on health care than on space programs, governments could create a healthier, wealthier, and more productive workforce.

In addition, many countries are spending large amounts of money on their space programs but are not getting a good return on their investments. There are very few people involved in space programs, yet, in some countries, they receive an incredibly high amount of money due to the expensive nature of sending rockets, satellites, and men into space. One example of this is the International Space Station. Several countries have contributed billions of dollars to the construction and maintenance of the space station. However, I cannot recall ever reading or hearing about any scientific discoveries made on the space station. Nor have I heard of any experiments being conducted there. It seems that astronauts often visit the space station, but they do not appear to be doing anything practical or useful to the large majority of the world's population. Instead, the International Space Station is just wasting billions and billions of taxpayers' dollars to increase the prestige of the nations associated with it. That money could be spent much more wisely and better back here on Earth.

In conclusion, I believe that governments should stop spending so much money on their space programs and should instead focus on investing their valuable financial resources here on Earth. Those funds could be better spent on health care and making the population healthier. In addition, since the space program is not producing any obvious benefits, the money spent on it could and should be spent on Earth, not in outer space.
Reading

Listening

Narrator Now listen to part of a lecture on the topic you just read about.

W: Everyone knows that raising children in America nowadays is expensive. Indeed, that's one reason why many couples are choosing to have only one child or none at all. However, I don't want to discourage any of you from having children of your own. There are some ways to get those expenses down.

For example, many families, even those with health insurance, spend huge amounts of money on medical expenses for their children. That's understandable. But, instead of treating illnesses when they occur, they ought to be practicing prevention, which, in the long run, will save them money. One way to do this is to practice extreme cleanliness. A clean child is a healthy child. Clean children become sick less often and have fewer allergies. That's money in the bank right there.

Another cost-reducing measure is also related to health. We often hear about kids that get burned in the kitchen or hurt themselves in other ways. Remember, even with health insurance, one trip to the hospital can cost tens of thousands of dollars. So parents should be educating their children on safety. Knowing about safety increases the chances that the child won't get hurt and will remain out of harm.

Finally, parents should be encouraging their children to pursue their own intellectual interests. Too many times, parents waste money on tutoring or lessons that their children aren't interested in. Why pay for piano lessons if your kid hates the piano? He's not going to become the next Mozart if he hates it. And parents shouldn't spend so much money on educational software if it's for something that their child has no interest in. Of course, these suggestions might only reduce a few thousand dollars off the total price tag, but, at today's rates, every dollar counts.

Sample Answer

The reading passage states that the cost of raising children in the United States is higher than in other countries. The professor, however, claims there are many ways to decrease these costs.

The reading mentions that raising a child from birth to college averages $260,000. It declares that this number is often higher and does not include expenses like travel or toys. The professor notes that health care costs are enormous. She says that if parents practice prevention and keep their children clean and healthy, they can save lots of money.

The reading then argues that American tuition rates are much higher than in Europe, where many attend school for free. It also states that products in these countries are cheaper than in the U.S. However, the professor counters by saying parents should educate their children about safety. This will keep their children from getting hurt and will save thousands in medical expenses.

Finally, responding to the claim that American parents spend more money on excessive or unnecessary items, the professor declares that parents should first learn what their children enjoy before paying for it. For example, parents should not pay for piano lessons if their child hates playing the piano.

The professor comes up with several ways to decrease the price of raising a child, thereby making it more appealing to couples.

Sample Answer

Today, advertisers use various ways to make their advertisements more appealing. In most cases, they appear to be successful at making their products seem much better than they really are; thus they are able to tempt customers to purchase them. I have a number of reasons for feeling this way, and they are all based upon my own personal experiences.

First, my family has occasionally purchased products after seeing them advertised on commercials. Unfortunately, several purchases turned out to be misguided. For example, once we saw several advertisements for a new car. The advertisements stated that the car had excellent engineering, so it would never break down. My parents then purchased the car; however, after just a couple of weeks, it broke down because of an engine problem. We only kept that car for a couple of years, but, during that time, we had numerous problems with it and frequently had to get it repaired.
Another example of the exaggerating effects of advertisements is the many advertisements for restaurants on television. These are especially common for fast-food restaurants. The food in the commercials always looks delicious, and the people seem to enjoy eating it. Also, the appearance and presentation of the food in the commercials are amazing. These commercials have often prompted me to encourage my family to visit some of these restaurants. However, in many instances, the food was not as delicious as the actors in the commercials made it appear to be. Additionally, the helpings of food were smaller, and it did not look as appetizing as the food in the commercials did.

There is one more way in which advertisers often make their products look more attractive than reality. They often advertise a price that is not the correct one. Instead, it is much cheaper than the real price of the product. I saw this once in an advertisement for an airline. It was promoting very cheap fares anywhere in the country. However, when my father called to ask about the tickets, the operator told him there were many restrictions on those flights. According to them, we had to fly on certain dates and at specific times. And there were not many cheap tickets available. So, while there were some cheap tickets for sale, there were just a few, and we were not able to buy any.

I believe it is clear that advertisements show their products much better than they are in reality. Unfortunately, these commercials give consumers the wrong idea about the products being sold.

First of all, speed cameras actually don’t make the roads safer. They make them more dangerous in many cases. Why? Let me explain. People are often worried about getting a speeding ticket since they cost so much money. So, if a person is speeding and suddenly notices a camera, what’s he going to do? Slam on the brakes. That’s what. And then the car behind him might just slam into him. There are numerous documented cases of accidents occurring because people tried suddenly to slow down upon seeing a traffic camera. So they aren’t saving lives. In some cases, they are ending them.

Here’s another thing. Now that fewer police officers are being tasked to catching speeders, they have more time to snoop around and bother law-abiding citizens. Just the other week I was harassed in the park by a cop when all I was doing was sitting on a park bench feeding the squirrels. And you’ll notice that crime rates haven’t decreased since these speed cameras have been installed. So what are the cops doing with their extra time?

Finally, cameras malfunction. Several people have received pictures in the mail that weren’t even their cars. And others have gotten ticketed when they were definitely not speeding. Simply put, these cameras cannot be trusted to be completely accurate, and the government would be wise to ban their use before they cause any more problems.

The reading passage makes the argument that speed cameras are beneficial to society. The professor, however, argues that they strip people of their rights and are actually dangerous.

First, the reading claims that speed cameras make roads safer because people will drive slowly for fear of paying heavy fines. Because they are driving slower, they have few accidents. The professor, however, says that speed cameras make roads more dangerous. According to him, people who are speeding will slow down suddenly upon seeing a camera, thereby often causing accidents as they try to avoid getting ticketed.

The reading also states that speed cameras allow officers to spend more time catching criminals instead of watching for speeders. The professor counters this argument by mentioning that police are starting to harass law-abiding citizens like him. Also, he states that crime rates have not decreased lately, so the police are obviously not doing much with this extra time.
Finally, while the reading claims that the backlog of court cases is decreasing as fewer people protest their tickets in courts because of speed cameras, the professor says that many people are being improperly fined, so speed cameras cannot be trusted. For this reason, he believes they should be banned.

Task 2  (Independent Writing)

Sample Answer

Although I believe the lessons students learn in classrooms are important, I do not think they learn the most important lessons there. Instead, I feel that the most important lessons learned in life are those taught outside of the classroom.

First of all, students learn many important lessons from their families. Students may spend several hours a day at school, but they spend even more time at home with their families. Families are easily the most important things in students' lives. Students can watch the relationships between their parents, brothers, and sisters. And they can also learn how to interact with each family member. When they get older, they will most likely have families of their own, so it is crucial for them to learn how to get along with their own family first.

Next, many students participate in sports and athletics. Sometimes they do this as members of a team. But all students at least participate in recess and physical education. When students play a game or sport, they are not just getting exercise. Instead, they are also learning about teamwork and how to work well with others. This is important because, in the future, almost everyone will find jobs after graduating from high school or college. People must work well together at their jobs in order to be as productive and efficient as possible. Learning how to work with others actually begins on the playground, not in classrooms, where individualism is often promoted rather than teamwork.

Finally, once school finishes, many students hang out with each other and engage in various group activities like doing their homework, playing computer games, or just watching movies. Basically, these students are learning how to get along with their peers. They are also developing friendships. Students learn early on that not everyone is the same and that people have different personalities. So, by hanging out and doing things together with their friends, students can learn how to get along with others. This is a very important lesson for life since students will meet hundreds or even thousands of people in their lifetimes.

It seems obvious that the best lessons for life are learned while students are outside of the classroom. Although they might not think of what they are doing as learning, students are in fact developing skills they will need and use for the rest of their lives.
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- Passages and questions that closely simulate the ones that have occurred on the TOEFL® iBT
- Step-by-step brainstorming, note-taking, outlining, paraphrasing, and summarizing practice
- A list of essay topics reconstructed from the ones that have so far been asked on the TOEFL® iBT
- Two complete tests that familiarize students with the actual test format
- Full answer key