

4 Sustainability

Activities

Essay structure and organization: writing an effective introduction

i Introductions follow many patterns, depending on essay length, subject area and the type of essay question. However, the features mentioned in this unit are common to many introductions.

1 Answer these questions about introductions.

- 1 Can you think of at least three ways of getting the reader's interest?
- 2 What are two other typical features of an introduction?
- 3 What is the purpose of a thesis statement?

2 a Read this essay question and re-order the extracts below so that they form a logical introduction for it.

Urbanization at its current rate is unsustainable. Discuss.

- a Firstly, this essay will look at the rate of urbanization around the world. Secondly, how best to manage the consequences of urbanization will be discussed.
- b Recent years have seen rapid and mass urbanization, especially in developing countries. By 2030, the UN has forecast that more than 80 per cent of the world's population will live in urban areas.
- c Cities around the world have seen many people urbanize in the search for work.
- d This essay will argue that, whilst urbanization places pressure on the demand for and availability of resources, urbanization is an inevitable consequence of economic growth in a region. Consequently, attempts should not be made to reverse the trend but to manage the situation more effectively.
- e However, many migrants cannot afford to meet basic needs, and in cities such as Mumbai, slums have formed totalling near one million inhabitants.

b Which extract includes the writer's thesis? Is the writer's opinion clear in the thesis?

3 Look at these two essay questions and write a thesis statement for each one.

1 Technological advances no longer improve lives, they simply increase consumption. Discuss.

2 Population growth is unsustainable and needs to be controlled. To what extent do you agree with this statement?

4 Choose one of the essay questions from Exercise 3 and extend the thesis statement that you wrote into a full introduction.

Critical thinking:
producing logical arguments – comparisons

5 a Look at these words and decide which are used for comparison and which for contrast.

both comparable distinguish equivalence in common (with) instead of resemble unlike vary whereas while

b Complete these sentences using words from above so that they keep the same meaning as the ideas from the Unit 4 text.

1 developed countries have the infrastructure to cope with mass urbanization, less-developed countries unfortunately do not.

2 businesses and high-income earners have moved to suburban areas.

3 Advances in medicine and science have extended lives in high-income countries, in developing countries these advances have largely reduced death rates.

4 The American school system is to the education system in any other country in the world.

Using sources:
paraphrasing text

6 a Read the section of the Unit 4 text headed *Population and change* and take notes on the main ideas.

b Expand your notes into complete sentences.

c Check that you have expressed the ideas using your own words. If any parts are too similar to the original, try to think of words you could use to make the paraphrase more original.

7 Look at this paragraph. What is the function of each sentence? Choose from a) an explanation; b) an example; or c) a topic sentence.

While many cities in the developing world are experiencing a range of problems related to mass urbanization, the United States is experiencing different problems in its cities. According to Kendall (2012) the wealthier citizens are moving to suburban areas, leaving city centres with a largely poor population. Thus it is inevitable that a number of social problems are likely to develop.

8 Create a similarly structured paragraph using your paraphrase from Exercise 6.

Extension Write an essay answering this question. You can use information from the Unit 4 text, as well as any of the texts in Unit 4 of the Student's Book. Focus on paraphrasing ideas and writing a good introduction.

Social change is placing more pressure on finite resources, and there is an urgent need for people to modify their behaviour. Discuss.