Unit 5 - The Environment

Writing Strong Introduction

Opening of essay should introduce:

- topic of what you will write
- clearly state your opinion

Avoid:

- copying words from instructions
- use your own words

Describe something you know about the topic
Give your own opinion using formal language

Read this extract and write the topic.

One reason why zoos keep animals in cages is to study them and protect them for the future. Is this a good way or a bad way to help animals?

Topic: _____

A Animals need protecting but, in my opinion, zoos shouldn't keep animals in cages to study them and protect them for the future. It's not a good way to help them.

B Zoos know that many types of wildlife are in danger. If they can find ways of saving these animals by studying some of them, then I think they are doing something very good for nature.

C Wild animals are in increasing danger in the modern world. I think we should do all we can to increase our knowledge of nature and protect it.

Read the three alternative opening paragraphs written in answer to the task and answer the questions

Which introduction:

- ☐ 1.wrongly uses informal language, such as contractions (eg they're instead of they are)?
- ☐ 2.copies too many words from the task?
- ☐ 3.does not introduce the topic?
- ☐ 4.does not give an opinion on the question in the task?
- ☐ 5. correctly introduces the essay task?

Read this writing task

Some countries are now banning plastic bags in shops. Is this a good or a bad thing for shoppers?

Notes
Write about:

- plastic rubbish
- water pollution
- (your idea)

These are two alternative opening paragraphs for the essay banning plastic bags in shops. Which one successfully introduces the topic and the writer's opinion. Then choose the correct box.

☐ The earth could soon be covered in bits of plastic, covering the countryside and ruining the oceans. I think that this is wrong and what some countries are doing is good for everybody.

☐ Every day, millions of plastic bags are used by shoppers for an hour or two and then thrown away. I think that banning them in shops reduces the amount of rubbish in the world which is good for everybody.

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Now read the rest of the essay and answer the questions below it.

First of all, a huge proportion of our rubbish is made of plastic which does not decompose like paper and other waste products. Plastic takes years to disappear from the land.

In addition, many of the world's oceans and rivers are polluted by millions of plastic bags which are a danger to fish and other animals. Ducks and birds can get trapped in them and die, for instance, and fish get slowly poisoned if they eat them.

Moreover, there is no need for plastic bags in shops. People can easily get used to taking their own shopping bags with them when they go out.

All in all, I think more and more countries should stop shops using dangerous and unnecessary plastic bags. The world would be a much better place without them.



sequence connector

main point

In which paragraph does the writer use examples to support one of the points?

Using examples is a good way of explaining and supporting points in your essay. Look at the following statements about food and use your imagination to help you write examples.

1. Some of the food we buy would be easy to grow ourselves. For example, _____

_____

2. Some people do not have the time or energy to grow their own food. For example, _____

_____

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