



Academic Writing



Paragraph Writing: Quotations

Circular Economy

Copyright: These materials are photocopiable but please leave all logos and web addresses on handouts. **Please don't post these materials onto the web.** Thank you

Writing Exercise: Paraphrasing

Topic: Circular Economy

Time: 60+ minutes

Level: *****[B1/B2/C1]

Lesson Plan

Aim: *To develop the students' ability to write a paragraph using a range of quotes to create a cohesive piece of writing. This exercise practises paraphrasing and linking devices.*

1. Lead in

Ask students to:

- Discuss 'how a circular economy differs from a linear one.'
- Write down the pros and cons of a circular economy ([students could do some internet research here](#)).
- Decide where they stand. Are they for or against?
- Feed in / check key vocabulary (see next page).

2. Lesson

- Choose three of these quotations and write a paragraph (approx. 120-180 words) on the following: 'The pros of a circular economy far outweigh the cons'. Use accurate in-text citation and appropriate paraphrasing.
- Distribute the handout of quotes: Writing exercise 1.
- Students read the quotes (check any unknown vocabulary), identify the positive and negative statements and then choose **3 key quotes** to paraphrase for their paragraph.
- Give 40 minutes.
- Peer feedback ([use peer review form page 5](#)) or teacher marks [use marking code: www.academic-englishuk.com/error-correction].
- Give out sample answer with questions ([answers on page 6](#)).

Differentiation

- **Option 1:** Reduce the quotes down from 10 to 6.
- **Option 2:** Focus just on the pros or cons (Pros = quotations: 1,3,5,7,9 / Cons = quotations: 2,4,6,8,10)
- **Option 3:** Students write in pairs or small groups.

Circular Economy: Writing Exercise 1

Choose three of these quotations and write a paragraph (approx. 120-180 words) on the following: 'The *benefits of a circular economy far outweigh the negatives*'. Use accurate in-text citation and appropriate paraphrasing.

1. 'The circular economy gives us the tools to tackle climate change and biodiversity loss together, while addressing important social needs' (Ellen MacArthur Foundation, n.d).
2. 'Part of this model is planned obsolescence, when a product has been designed to have a limited lifespan to encourage consumers to buy it again' (European Parliament, 2023).
3. 'From a business model standpoint, adoption of the circular economic model improves competition within the free market, increases the value of sustainably-made products, and reduces costs of raw materials. A new service-based economy will also create diverse jobs across industrial sectors such as higher-skilled jobs in manufacturing' (Dhaliwal, 2023).
4. 'A major disadvantage of a circular economy is the lack of necessary infrastructure in order to recycle and reuse diverse types of materials. The current equipment and labour in the recycling industry may not meet the standards required for circular economic development' (Dhaliwal, 2023).
5. 'Moving towards a more circular economy could increase competitiveness, stimulate innovation, boost economic growth and create jobs' (European Parliament, 2023).
6. 'A circular business model is sustainable only if value can be economically recovered from the product' (Atasu et al., 2021).
7. 'A circular economy reduces material use, redesigns materials and products to be less resource intensive, and recaptures "waste" as a resource to manufacture new materials and products' (United States Environmental Protection Agency, 2023).
8. 'Creating a circular business model is challenging, and taking the wrong approach can be expensive' (Atasu et al., 2021).
9. 'Creating more efficient and sustainable products from the start would help to reduce energy and resource consumption, as it is estimated that more than 80% of a product's environmental impact is determined during the design phase' (European Parliament, 2023).
10. 'Not all products or materials can be recycled' (Dhaliwal, 2023).

References

Atasu, A., Dumas, C. and Van Wassenhove, L. N., (2021). *The Circular Business Model* [online]. Available at: <https://hbr.org/2021/07/the-circular-business-model> (Accessed 07 March 2024)

Dhaliwal, B., (2023). *What is a circular economy?* [online]. Available at: <https://www.earthday.org/what-is-a-circular-economy/> (Accessed 11 March 2024)

Ellen MacArthur Foundation, (n.d.). *What is a circular economy?* [online]. Available at: <https://www.ellenmacarthurfoundation.org/topics/circular-economy-introduction/overview> (Accessed 11 March 2024)

European Parliament, (2023). *Circular economy: definition, importance and benefits* [online]. Available at: <https://www.europarl.europa.eu/topics/en/article/20151201STO05603/circular-economy-definition-importance-and-benefits> (Accessed 10 March 2024)

United States Environmental Protection Agency, (2023). *What is a circular economy?* [online]. Available at: <https://www.epa.gov/circulareconomy/what-circular-economy> (Accessed 10 March 2024)

Paragraph Peer Feedback Form

	Yes	No	Comments <i>Anything missing, unclear or a mistake.</i>
Main Body			
Is there a clear topic sentence?			
Is there a main argument?			
Are the ideas supported?			
Are there three quotes in the paragraph?			
Are the ideas commented upon and evaluated?			
Are the sources incorporated effectively?			
Is the in-text referencing accurate?			
Is there a concluding sentence?			
Highlight anything you don't understand.			
Language			
Highlight any vocabulary mistakes.			
Highlight any grammar mistakes.			
Highlight any academic style mistakes.			
Organisation			
Is it logical and clear?			
What cohesive devices have they used?			
Highlight anything you don't understand?			
Overall			
What did they do well?			
What do they need to do to improve?			

Sample Answer

The benefits of adopting a circular economy over a linear one can be enjoyed both in terms of the environment and business. As reported by the United States Environmental Protection Agency (2023), the foundation of a circular economy is to reduce, reuse and redesign materials and products, which could not only have a significant impact on lessening the number of resources used, but also the amount of waste generated. In turn, the more efficient and sustainable the products are, the less energy would need to be consumed, which would considerably ease the high environmental impact a product has at the design stage (European Parliament, 2023). In terms of business, Dhaliwal (2023) claims that due to the upsurge in the value of sustainable products, a circular economy would lead to a more competitive supply and demand market, allowing for the creation of additional job opportunities in sectors such as manufacturing, and a shift in focus from product-based to service-oriented, which could again result in a more efficient economy as a whole.

170 words

Paragraph Questions

- 1) Is there a topic sentence? What is the topic? What is/are the controlling ideas?
- 2) Is there a main argument?
- 3) Which quotes were used?
- 4) Is it logical and clear? How has the paragraph been organised?
- 5) Is there an example?
- 6) Is there a concluding sentence? What is concluded?
- 7) How are the sources incorporated?

Sample Answers

The benefits of adopting a circular economy over a linear one can be enjoyed both in terms of the environment and business. As reported by the United States Environmental Protection Agency (2023), the foundation of a circular economy is to reduce, reuse and redesign materials and products, which could not only have a significant impact on lessening the number of resources used, but also the amount of waste generated. In turn, the more efficient and sustainable the products are, the less energy would need to be consumed, which would considerably ease the high environmental impact a product has at the design stage (European Parliament, 2023). In terms of business, Dhaliwal (2023) claims that due to the upsurge in the value of sustainable products, a circular economy would lead to a more competitive supply and demand market, allowing for the creation of additional job opportunities in sectors such as manufacturing, and a shift in focus from product-based to service-oriented, which could again result in a more efficient economy as a whole.

170 words

Paragraph Questions

1) Is there a topic sentence? What is the topic? What is/are the controlling ideas?

Topic: Benefits of a circular economy. Controlling ideas: business and environment.

2) Is there a main argument?

Yes: Positives clearly outweigh the negatives.

3) Which quotes were used?

Quote 3 / Quote 7 / Quote 9.

4) Is it logical and clear? How has the paragraph been organised?

Benefits for both environment and business > fewer resources used > less waste > reduction in energy used > increased sustainability means more competition in business > more diverse jobs > more efficiency overall.

5) Is there an example?

Yes: 'in sectors such as manufacturing'.

6) Is there a concluding sentence? What is concluded?

A circular economy is a more efficient economy.

7) How are the sources incorporated?

*As reported by the United States Environmental Protection Agency (2023)...
In terms of business, Dhaliwal (2023) claims that due to...*