



Academic Writing



Paragraph Writing: Quotations

Ecocities

EXAMPLE

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Writing Exercise: Paraphrasing EXAMPLE

Topic: Ecocities

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 ecocities are changing the future of our planet.'
- Write down 'the reasons for and against building ecocities' ([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 reasons for building ecocities far outweigh the reasons against'. 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.

Ecocities: Writing Exercise 1

EXAMPLE

Choose three of these quotations and write a paragraph (approx. 120-180 words) on the following: 'The reasons for building ecocities far outweigh the reasons against'. Use accurate in-text citation and appropriate paraphrasing.

1. 'Faced with unprecedented challenges of climate change; terrorism; environmental degradation; instability of economic markets; demographic shifts; increasing social inequality; crumbling infrastructure; and other factors, cities that prospered in the 19th and 20th centuries are now being stretched to their physical and social limits. Eco-cities have emerged as a solution to these crises' (LSE, 2015).
2. 'Each and every place is unique – its [redacted], its history, its [redacted] – making it difficult to have a single typology [redacted] of the ecocity' (Hes, 2020).
3. '[redacted] increasing. [redacted] modern, sustainable cities' (Global Goals, 2024).
4. 'Many cities claim to be ecological cities, [redacted] of [redacted] made to measure to what extent the cities have achieved their goal' (van Dijk, 2015).
5. '[It is] [redacted] the [redacted] properly, doing all those things that people fairly quickly come to nowadays, it [is] more about [redacted] in the [redacted] drive ecological or sustainable development into the future' (Downton, as reported by Urban Ecology Australia, 2021).
6. 'Changes in the [redacted]' (van Dijk, 2015).
7. 'These strategies are carefully choreographed to function as [redacted] of energy, [redacted] optimised' (LSE, 2015).
8. 'Diversity, difference, and debate – the very [redacted] – are swept [redacted] and functionality' (LSE, 2015).
9. 'Substantially increase the number of cities [redacted] and [redacted] towards inclusion, resource efficiency, mitigation and adaptation to climate change, resilience to [redacted], in line with [redacted] Reduction 2015–2030, holistic [redacted] management' (Global Goals, 2024).
10. 'Eco-cities are advertised as being [redacted] almost exclusively by [redacted] the competitive global economy. Eco-cities [redacted] as engines of global capitalism' (LSE, 2015).

References

Hes, D., (2020). *Changing the Way We Think About Ecocities* [online]. Available at: <https://www.filmsforaction.org/articles/changing-the-way-we-think-about-ecocities/> (Accessed 14 March 2024)

The Global Goals, (2024). *Sustainable Cities and Communities* [online]. Available at: <https://www.globalgoals.org/goals/11-sustainable-cities-and-communities/> (Accessed 12 March 2024)

The London School of Economics and Political Science, (2015). *Book Review: Eco-Cities and the Transition to Low Carbon Economies* [online]. Available at: <https://blogs.lse.ac.uk/politicsandpolicy/book-review-eco-cities-and-the-transition-to-low-carbon-economies/> (Accessed 13 March 2024)

Urban Ecology Australia, (2021). *How to Build an Ecocity* [online]. Available at: <https://www.urbanecology.org.au/how-to-build-an-ecocity/> (Accessed 16 March 2024)

van Dijk, M.P., (2015). 'Measuring eco cities, comparing European and Asian experiences: Rotterdam versus Beijing', *Asia Europe Journal*, 13, pp. 75–94. doi: [10.1007/s10308-014-0405-7](https://doi.org/10.1007/s10308-014-0405-7) (Accessed 16 March 2024)

Paragraph Peer Feedback Form

EXAMPLE

	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 [redacted] paragraph?			
Are the ideas commented upon and evaluated?			
Are the [redacted] effectively?			
Is the in-text referencing accurate?			
Is there [redacted] sentence?			
Highlight anything you don't understand.			
Language			
Highlight any vocabulary mistakes.			
Highlight any grammar mistakes.			
Highlight any [redacted] mistakes.			
Organisation			
Is it [redacted] ?			
What [redacted] have they used?			
[redacted] you don't understand?			
Overall			
What did they do well?			
What do they need [redacted] ?			

Sample Answer

EXAMPLE

The reasons for building more ecocities mainly lie in response to how urban areas have changed due to the impacts [REDACTED]. Cities which are more [REDACTED] necessary for several reasons. Firstly, changes [REDACTED] of the [REDACTED] being [REDACTED] their limits and unable to [REDACTED] es there (Global Goals, 2024 [REDACTED], impacts of climate [REDACTED] how cities maintain overall living [REDACTED] instance, the [REDACTED] (LSE, 2015). Thus, [REDACTED] (cited by Urban Ecology Australia, 2021) claims, [REDACTED] the effects of the [REDACTED] community values [REDACTED] in the facilitation of [REDACTED] for several [REDACTED] come.

144 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 [REDACTED]?
- 4) Is it logical and clear? How has the paragraph been organised?
- 5) Is there [REDACTED]?
- 6) Is there a concluding sentence? What is concluded?
- 7) How are [REDACTED] incorporated?

Sample Answers

EXAMPLE

Paragraph Questions

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

Yes. Topic: Building ecocities. Controlling ideas: The environment and population.

ALL ANSWERS INCLUDED IN PAID VERSION...