



Academic Writing



Paragraph Writing: Quotations

Social Media

EXAMPLE

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Writing Exercise: Paraphrasing EXAMPLE

Topic: Social Media

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 impactful social media is for teenagers.'
- Write down the positive and negative effects on teenagers ([students could do some internet research here](#)).
- Decide where they stand. Are they more optimistic or pessimistic?
- 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 negative impacts of social media on teenagers far outweigh the positives'*. 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 put in a 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: 2,4,6,8,10 / Cons = quotations: 1,3,5,7,9).
- **Option 3:** Students write in pairs or small groups.

Social Media: Writing Exercise 1 **EXAMPLE**

Choose three of these quotations and write a paragraph (approx. 120-180 words) on the following: 'The negative impacts of social media on teenagers far outweigh the positives'. Use accurate in-text citation and appropriate paraphrasing.

1. 'There's no question kids are missing out on very critical social skills. In a way, texting and online communicating - it's not like it creates a nonverbal learning disability, but it puts everybody in a nonverbal disabled context, where body language, facial expression, and even the smallest kinds of vocal reactions are rendered invisible' (Ehmke et al., 2023).
2. 'In some cases, social media can provide [redacted] may be [redacted] people' (Annie E. Casey Foundation, 2023)
3. 'Everyone needs a respite from the demands [redacted] alone to regroup, [redacted] don't have that, it's easy to become emotionally depleted, fertile ground for anxiety to breed' (Ehmke et al., 2023).
4. 'Online [redacted] healthy [redacted] when they're experiencing stress or social isolation. For youth who have anxiety or struggle in [redacted] over social [redacted] toward feeling more comfortable interacting with peers in person' (Weir, 2023).
5. 'Our [redacted] of waiting has [redacted] the answer to almost any question' (University of Utah, 2023).
6. 'Social media platforms could [redacted] or at least [redacted] stressors' (Annie E. Casey Foundation, 2023).
7. 'We can act on impulse and [redacted] that may reflect a feeling or [redacted] but may not be true to us a day later. When our more [redacted] self is back in charge, we can feel [redacted] regret' (Holzbauer, as [redacted] University of Utah, 2023).
8. 'Social media provides a lot of opportunities for young [redacted], learn [redacted] with issues, and have their voices heard. And it gives them an opportunity to explore their identities [redacted] (Nesi, as reported by Weir, 2023).
9. 'We also know that content can be filtered, edited, [redacted], [redacted] standards being broadcast to the entire world for anyone to see. Users are obsessed [redacted] (University of Utah, 2023).
10. 'Eight-in-ten teens say that what they see on social media makes [redacted] what's [redacted] % say it [redacted] feel like they have a place where they can show their creative side' (Anderson et al., 2022).

References

Anderson, M., Vogels, E.A., Perrin, A., and Rainie, L., (2022). *Connection, Creativity and Drama: Teen Life on Social Media in 2022* [online]. Available at: <https://www.pewresearch.org/internet/2022/11/16/connection-creativity-and-drama-teen-life-on-social-media-in-2022/> (Accessed 14 March 2024)

Annie E. Casey Foundation, (2023). *Social Media's Concerning Effect on Teen Mental Health* [online]. Available at: <https://www.aecf.org/blog/social-medias-concerning-effect-on-teen-mental-health> (Accessed 16 March 2024)

Ehmke, R., Steiner-Adair, C., and Wick, D., (2023). *How Using Social Media Affects Teenagers* [online]. Available at: <https://childmind.org/article/how-using-social-media-affects-teenagers/> (Accessed 11 March 2024)

University of Utah, (2023). *The Impact of Social Media on Teen's Mental Health* [online]. Available at: <https://healthcare.utah.edu/healthfeed/2023/01/impact-of-social-media-teens-mental-health> (Accessed 16 March 2024)

Weir, K. (2023). 'Social media brings benefits and risks to teens: Here's how psychology can help identify a path forward', *American Psychological Association*, 54(6), doi: <https://www.apa.org/monitor/2023/09/protecting-teens-on-social-media> (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 detrimental impacts of social media on teenagers are notable with regard to mental wellbeing. Although it is reported [REDACTED] with interacting in [REDACTED], triggering spells of heightened anxiety [REDACTED], may [REDACTED], as it can be seen [REDACTED] and react (Weir, 2023), Ehmke et al. (2023) claim that anxiety [REDACTED] the fact that [REDACTED] allowing yourself to mentally switch off [REDACTED] you drained [REDACTED] which is when [REDACTED]. Furthermore, f [REDACTED] may be further [REDACTED] owing to the [REDACTED] tends to generate. As Holzbauer (cited by University of Utah, 2023) reports, it is common [REDACTED] what [REDACTED], owing to [REDACTED] and these posts may not reflect our true feelings. These negative feelings could [REDACTED] vely posting [REDACTED] day.

179 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?

Topic: Social media and teenagers. Controlling idea: mental health.

ALL ANSWERS INCLUDED IN PAID VERSION...