



Academic Writing



Paragraph Writing: Quotations

Generation Gap

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Writing Exercise: Paraphrasing

Topic: The Generation Gap

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 and why we have a Generation Gap.'
- Write down the problems and solutions ([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 problems caused by the Generation Gap far outweigh the solutions'. 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 problem and solution 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: 2,4,6,8,10 / Cons = quotations: 1,3,5,7,9).
- **Option 3:** Students write in pairs or small groups.

The Generation Gap: Writing Exercise 1

Choose three of these quotations and write a paragraph (approx. 120-180 words) on the following: *'The problems caused by the Generation Gap far outweigh the solutions'*. Use accurate in-text citation and appropriate paraphrasing.

1. *'Nearly eight in ten Americans aged 18–29 compared with six in ten of those aged 65 and older are concerned about global warming, according to a Gallup survey, in part because older people are much less likely than the young to believe climate change is caused by human activity'* (Stokes, 2021).
2. *'We need to consciously do away with age-based stereotypes where climate change is concerned'* (Lloyd, 2021).
3. *'Older people face a bigger income hit from surging energy costs this winter but younger households are more at risk of being unable to pay their bill or getting into debt amid the cost-of-living crisis'* (Wood, 2022).
4. *'Fashioning communication that is designed for and directed towards older people, particularly given that older people are most at risk health-wise from the effects of global warming'* (Lloyd, 2021).
5. *'Perceived divides and barriers can lead to mistrust, contempt, and suboptimal solutions'* (Gardner and Roberson, 2022).
6. *'Leaders can make the most of age and generational differences through fostering a shared sense of purpose in workshop sessions, using team launches as an opportunity to highlight differences, and setting up and sustaining a reverse mentoring program'* (Gardner and Roberson, 2022).
7. *'Their earnings are lower, their rents are higher and they are burdened with student loans, on which they will soon be charged 6.9% interest, while triple-locked pensions rise by 10%'* (Toynbee, 2023).
8. *'Suggested remedies included a massive housebuilding programme, reforming regressive council tax to make expensive properties pay their share and a surcharge on second homes. Renters would have secure tenancies and jobs would have secure contracts with no zero-hours clauses'* (Toynbee, 2023).
9. *'While older households face a bigger increase, it is younger generations, who have endured years of stalled pay growth and high rents, who will struggle most to cope'* (Wood, 2022).
10. *'When the social contract between generations is broken, when the distortion in distribution of wealth and income becomes too grotesque, it is for governments to redress'* (Toynbee, 2023).

References

Gardner, H. K. and Roberson, D., (2022). *3 Strategies to Bridge Generational Divides at Work* [online]. Available at: <https://hbr.org/2022/12/3-strategies-to-bridge-generational-divides-at-work> (Accessed 19 March 2024)

Lloyd, D., (2021). *Debunking the Climate Change Generation Gap* [online]. Available at: <https://www.ageing.ox.ac.uk/blog/Debunking-the-Climate-Change-Generation-Gap> (Accessed 17 March 2024)

Stokes, B., (2021). *The Intergenerational Gap on Challenges for the Century* [online]. Available at: <https://www.gmfus.org/news/intergenerational-gap-challenges-century> (Accessed 21 March 2024)

Toynbee, P., (2023). *My generation is sucking Britain's young people dry. Why are politicians too scared to admit it?* [online]. Available at: <https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2023/feb/14/generation-britain-young-people-inequality> (Accessed 21 March 2024)

Wood, Z., (2022). *Energy bills: older Britons will pay more but youngest will struggle most, report finds* [online]. Available at: <https://www.theguardian.com/money/2022/nov/14/energy-bills-older-britons-will-pay-more-but-youngest-will-struggle-most-report-finds> (Accessed 22 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 generation gap, when generations differ in their beliefs, values, and outlook, can also be seen in the world's distribution of wealth. Younger generations, such as millennials and Generation Z, are believed to suffer most of all. Causes of this generational wealth gap include a decrease in average pay, slow wage growth, high-interest student loans, and exorbitant rental fees compared to previous generations (Wood, 2022; Toynbee, 2023). Conversely, older generations, for instance, baby boomers, have seen their state pensions continuously rise in line with inflation (Toynbee, 2023), and are more likely to own a home of their own. Thus, as we are in the midst of a seemingly never-ending cost-of-living crisis, although older generations may see an increase in their energy costs, most likely due to spending more time at home, it is expected that the younger generations will be unable to cope with a hike in energy prices, amongst others, and in turn are more prone to incurring further debt (Wood, 2022). Overall, it seems very unlikely that this generational gap will ever be narrowed.

176 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 generation gap, when generations differ in their beliefs, values, and outlook, can also be seen in the world's distribution of wealth. Younger generations, such as millennials and Generation Z, are believed to suffer most of all. Causes of this generational wealth gap include a decrease in average pay, slow wage growth, high-interest student loans, and exorbitant rental fees compared to previous generations (Wood, 2022; Toynbee, 2023). Conversely, older generations, for instance, baby boomers, have seen their state pensions continuously rise in line with inflation (Toynbee, 2023), and are more likely to own a home of their own. Thus, as we are in the midst of a seemingly never-ending cost-of-living crisis, although older generations may see an increase in their energy costs, most likely due to spending more time at home, it is expected that the younger generations will be unable to cope with a hike in energy prices, amongst others, and in turn are more prone to incurring further debt (Wood, 2022).

163 words

Paragraph Questions

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

Yes. Topic: Generational wealth gap. Controlling ideas: Causes and effects of unequal wealth distribution.

2) Is there a main argument?

Yes – the problems of the generational wealth gap outweigh solutions.

3) Which quotes were used?

Quote 3 / Quote 7 / Quote 9.

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

Yes - logical. Causes of gap > current economic situation does not aid younger generations > effects of gap > further financial issues for younger generations.

5) Is there an example?

Yes – ‘...older generations, for instance, baby boomers,...’

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

Unlikely that the gap between older and younger generations' wealth will be narrowed.

7) How are the sources incorporated?

*'...have seen their state pensions continuously rise in line with inflation (Toynbee, 2023),...'
'...exorbitant rental fees compared to previous generations (Wood, 2022; Toynbee, 2023).'*