

SAMPLE WRITING PROCESS: EFFECT PARAGRAPH/ESSAY

Effect paragraphs/essays are the opposite of cause paragraphs/essays. They describe the effects of a given thing or event.

Topic sentence: Pollution has many effects on human beings.

Brainstorming (what are the effects of pollution on humans?):

oil spills

dying forests

greenhouse gases

rising sea levels

global warming

destruction of animal/human habitats

ozone layer

fertilizer

animal extinction

cancer

air pollution

food

noise pollution

illness

water pollution

acid rain

carbon dioxide

stress

poison

lung diseases

smog

nuclear disaster

health

psychological

rubbish

Possible plan / outline:

Supporting idea 1: health

Details/Examples: lung diseases - smog
cancer - poison

Supporting idea 2: destruction of habitat

Details/Examples: oil spills
nuclear disaster

Supporting idea 3: psychological effects

Details/Examples: living in clean, unspoilt areas vs living in a polluted city
the Swiss Alps vs London

Paragraph:

Pollution which is one of the biggest problems facing the world today has many effects on human life. First of all, pollution is bad for people's health. For example, smog, caused by car's exhaust fumes and factory emissions, can lead to lung diseases in humans. Also, food and water can be polluted by poisonous chemicals, and this can cause cancer in the people who consume them. Another effect of pollution is the destruction of human habitat. Thus, an oil spill can make an area where people previously lived uninhabitable. Another example is the nuclear disaster in Fukushima, Japan, which made it impossible for people to live in a large area around the site of the explosion. Finally, pollution can also have a negative effect on people's psychology. People who live in a clean, unspoilt landscape like the Swiss Alps will tend to be more positively affected by their environment than people who live in a polluted, rubbish-strewn city such as London. To sum up, pollution has many negative effects on the lives of humans.

Turning This Paragraph into an Essay

Introduction:

Pollution is one of the biggest problems facing the world today. There are many different types of pollution, such as air, water, and soil pollution, and these are caused by many different factors, such as exhaust fumes, oil spills and radiation leaks. However, they all have one thing in common: their effects on human beings. There are various effects of pollution on human life, but the most important effects of pollution are on human's health, habitat and psychology.

Body Paragraph 1:

The first and most important effect of pollution is on human health. There are many ways in which pollution affects human health and the first of these is smog. Smog occurs in big cities and industrial areas, and is caused by car exhaust fumes and/or factory emissions. People who live and work in areas with a lot of smog have to breathe it in, and, over a longer period of time, this can cause lung diseases such as asthma. Another example is the pollution of food and water by poisonous chemicals, often as a result of overuse of fertilizers or waste spillages. People who consume food or water that has been contaminated in this way can become seriously ill, either in the short or in the longer term.

Body Paragraph 2:

Apart from negative effects on health, pollution can also lead to the destruction of human habitats. Firstly, repeated oil spills in the Niger delta on the coast of Nigeria have made the lives of the previous inhabitants of that area (mostly farmers and fishermen) almost impossible, and forced many of them to move somewhere else in search of new livelihoods. Another example is the recent nuclear disaster in Fukushima, which led the Japanese government to evacuate an area in a 20 kilometre radius around the site of the original explosion. The flight of people from areas that have been contaminated in this way can lead to increased demographic pressures and competition for resources in the location where they eventually end up settling, and thus has a wider impact on the society of the country where the disaster occurred.

Body Paragraph 3:

Another negative effect of pollution is on people's psychology. Living in a clean, unspoilt environment like the Swiss Alps or the Argentinian Pampa will tend to affect people more positively than waking up every morning to a polluted, noisy, rubbish-strewn city such as London, Buenos Aires or Istanbul. This impact on people's psychology can lead

to serious mental problems, such as depression. With a majority of the world's population living in big cities like these, pollution ends up affecting the mental health of most of the people on this planet.

Conclusion:

In conclusion, pollution affects human beings negatively in terms of health, habitat and psychology. If people want to improve the lives of future generations, they need to work hard to lower the overall amount of pollution in the world.

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