

Thesis Statement

1. Complete the following thesis statements by adding topics to them.

a) Technology is changing our lives in three important areas:

b) Inflation is primarily caused by

c) Poverty creates negative consequences for society, such as

d) The purpose of this paper is to

Introductory Paragraph

2. Re-arrange the sentences to form a coherent introduction. The thesis statement should be the last sentence.

a) ¹ It can cause a variety of disorders, ranging from headaches to stomach ulcers, and even alcoholism. ² The busy schedules that most adults face from day to day have created a rising health problem in the modern world. ³ Stress, like a common cold, is a problem that cannot be cured; however, it can be controlled. ⁴ Stress affects almost everyone, from the highly pressured executive to the busy homemaker or student. ⁵ A person can learn to control stress by setting realistic goals, enjoying a hobby and/or physical exercise, and by maintaining a good warm relationship with family and friends.

b) ¹ The heavy traffic problem can be solved by building rapid transit systems from the suburbs to the cities, by improving traffic transportation systems within the cities, and by forming car pools. ² Traffic congestion is caused by the thousands of cars that come into the cities from the suburban areas as well as from the thousands of cars within the city limits. ³ One of the most serious problems facing most big cities is traffic congestion. ⁵ This mammoth problem must be resolved before it gets worse.

c) ¹ However, when change does come, not everyone in the organization is likely to perceive it in the same manner. ² In the world of business, change is inevitable. ³ History has shown that managers and employees have very different perspectives of change. ⁴ At a time when IT developments are sweeping in through all areas of work, and changing how work is done who does it, change becomes an unarguable fact.

Concluding Paragraph

3. Study the introductory paragraph of an essay on ‘Living in the twentieth century’ and the concluding paragraph that follows.

Introduction

A person living in the twentieth century has seen many changes take place in almost all areas of human life. Some people are excited by the challenges that these changes offer; others long to return to the simpler, less automated life style of the past. Living in the twentieth century has certain advantages, such as a higher standard of living, but it also has some disadvantages, such as a polluted environment, the depersonalization of human relationships and the weakening of spiritual values.

Conclusion

In conclusion, although the twentieth century has indeed given us a lot of advantages by making us richer, healthier and freer to enjoy our lives, it has, in my opinion, not made us wiser. The twentieth century has also made the Earth dirtier, people less humane and our spiritual lives poorer. We should continue to enjoy the benefits of technological advancements because they free us to pursue our interests and goals. However, we must make a concerted effort to preserve our natural environment for future generations. Moreover, we should take the time now to make our lives more meaningful in an increasingly impersonal, mechanized world.

How has the writer constructed the concluding paragraph? Has a brief summary of the main points been stated? Does the writer leave you with something to think about – ‘food for thought’?

4. Now choose an introductory paragraph a), b) or c) from question 1 and write a concluding paragraph