

Skill 3 Introduction

In the Introduction to your essay, you must tell the reader what you plan to say. You must describe in one or two sentences whether the lecture challenges or supports the reading passage. Look at the sample notes from the topic on solar energy:

Reading

Main Ideas

1. solar energy abundant and cheap

2. doesn't cause pollution

3. available everywhere

Lecture

Main Ideas

1. expensive to install system

2. can't be used everywhere

3. solar panels don't look nice

Look at a sample introduction for this topic:

The reading presents solar energy as a good alternative energy source, but the lecturer points out that solar energy has several disadvantages.

Here are some words that you can use to discuss a challenge or a support of the reading passage.

Useful words

Challenge

but

challenge

contradict

disagree

however

on the other hand

Support

agree

also

and

both

confirm

likewise

support

Practice

Go back to the ideas that you connected in Skill 1. Choose the best introductory sentence for each set of notes.

1. Reading 1 and Lecture 1

- (A) The reading passage discusses the importance of parental involvement in education. The lecturer agrees that parental involvement is important and discusses ways to encourage it.
- (B) Schools should encourage parental involvement because it leads to higher student achievement.

2. Reading 2 and Lecture 2

- (A) The reading passage explains how aromatherapy has been used like medicine to treat illness and improve mood. The lecturer, however, says that there is no scientific evidence to prove that aromatherapy is effective.
- (B) The reading passage explains different ways that aromatherapy is used for different types of ailments. There are many people who do not believe in these kinds of treatments.

3. Reading 3 and Lecture 3

- (A) The lecturer explains that forest fires often have natural causes, such as lightning. They are important in maintaining the natural balance of forests.
- (B) Both the reading passage and the lecturer talk about the causes of forest fires and the different types of forest fires that can occur.

4. Reading 4 and Lecture 4

- (A) Industrial agriculture gets a high yield by using a system of monoculture. Unfortunately, it requires the heavy use of chemicals, and this has led to an environmental disaster.
- (B) Industrial agriculture relies on a system of monoculture to get high crop yields, which leads to the heavy use of chemicals. Organic farming, on the other hand, works with natural resources and does not require the use of chemicals.