

Example body paragraph (see page two for analysis)

Global warming is occurring because of specific human activities. First, burning fossil fuels such as coal, gas, and oil is leading to unprecedented levels of CO₂ in the atmosphere. CO₂ prevents warmth from escaping into space and is one the main greenhouse gases. Second, farming, especially of livestock, has led to the release of vast quantities of methane, a gas produced by the animals' digestive systems. Methane is an even more effective greenhouse gas than CO₂ and will become an increasing problem as the world's population adopts a more meat-based diet. Finally, deforestation has exerted a dual effect on rising CO₂ emissions, with smaller forest areas no longer being able to absorb sufficient amounts of atmospheric CO₂ through photosynthesis and with the burning of forests directly producing more CO₂. According to the WWF, deforestation accounts for around 20 percent of global CO₂ emissions [2]. Although, the impact of human beings on climate change has been challenged by some scientists and more recently by populist politicians such as Donald trump, there is an overwhelming consensus among climatologists that the rise in global temperatures is indeed a result of the practices listed above. In summary, there is general agreement that these three activities constitute the primary cause of record levels of greenhouse gases, and thus, to be effective, policies to mitigate climate change should address each area individually.

Topic sentence. Note that it uses a clue phrase, 'human activities', that lets the reader know what to expect in the following sentences

Main point, part one

Global warming is occurring because of specific human activities. First, burning fossil fuels such as coal, gas, and oil is leading to unprecedented levels of CO₂ in the atmosphere. CO₂ prevents warmth from escaping the into space and is one the main greenhouse gases. Second, farming, especially of livestock, has led to the release of vast quantities of methane, a gas produced by the animals' digestive systems. Methane is an even more effective greenhouse gas than CO₂ and will become an increasing problem as the world's population adopts a more meat-based diet. Finally, deforestation has exerted a dual effect on rising CO₂ emissions, with smaller forest areas no longer being able to absorb sufficient amounts of atmospheric CO₂ through photosynthesis and with the burning of forests directly producing more CO₂. According to the WWF, deforestation accounts for around 20 percent of global CO₂ emissions [2]. Although, the impact of human beings on climate change has been challenged by some scientists and more recently by populist politicians such as Donald trump, there is an overwhelming consensus among climatologists that the rise in global temperatures is indeed a result of the practices listed above. In summary, there is general agreement that these three activities constitute the primary cause of record levels of greenhouse gases, and thus, to be effective, policies to mitigate climate change should address each area individually.

Supporting sentence

Main point, part two

Supporting sentence

Supporting sentence

Main point, part three

Concluding sentence that summarises the main points and creates a link to the topic of the next paragraph: 'effective policies to mitigate climate change'

Acknowledging counterarguments