

ESL 106
Writing Final Exam
Understanding the reading

The questions are here to give you a little guidance in understanding the article. They are not required. They are just for a little assistance. The paragraphs are not numbered, so I will say “In paragraph 1 (During America’s...), ...?” I will give you the first two words of the paragraph in parentheses so that it’s clear which paragraph I’m talking about.

Keep in mind that the underlined links in the article are mine. They are to help with vocabulary or concepts. The links that are not underlined are from the author.

Part 1: Complete each sentence below. The point of these questions is to get you focused on the main idea of each paragraph. Some of these might be hard because you might not be looking at it the way that I do. If a question is taking you too long, skip it. But I think you will get most of blanks below.

1. In paragraph 1 (During America’s...), the author’s main idea is that during the current Covid-19 crisis, food waste _____
2. In paragraph 2 (Americans are...), the author’s main idea is that because of the current crisis, the eating habits of Americans _____ and this has led to _____.
3. Paragraph 3 (As Politico...) gives us more information about the previous main idea. The author’s main idea here is the the eating habits of Americans _____

4. In paragraph 4 (Since we’re...), the author’s main idea is that food waste is a problem at _____
5. In paragraph 5 (Things get...), another area that is affected is _____, which will result in _____.
6. In paragraph 6 (Speaking of...), the author says more about the previous main idea, but he looks at a different aspect of it. What is the area that is being discussed in both paragraph 5 and 6? _____ The previous main idea focuses on _____ and this main idea focuses on _____.
7. In paragraph 7 (And all...), the new main idea is that food is being wasted in/at _____

8. In paragraph 8 (In short...), the author tells the reader that most people _____

9. In paragraph 9 (However, Maximo...), the author proposes a _____.
He suggests that consumers _____

Some questions to think about:

1. Look back at each of the main ideas. Overall, is the author primarily discussing a problem or a solution to a problem. Is he mostly focusing on causes or effects, or both causes *and* effects? How do you know? The title of the article may also help here.
2. What does your answer to Question 1 tell you about the author's **purpose** in writing this article?
3. What do you think the word "obviously," which is in parentheses in paragraph 2, tells us about **the tone** of the article? Is it formal? casual? academic? something else? What might this tell us about **the genre**?
4. What do you think of the information and/or language in the first sentence of paragraph 6? What might that tell us about **the genre** of the text?
5. What do you think of the author's **support**? Is he mostly giving us statistics and numbers? Is he citing research? Is he just linking to other sources? Is he quoting authorities? Is he just making claims with no support? What does this tell us about **the genre, audience, and purpose**?
6. Here is the link to "[COVID-19 Is Making Our Food Waste Problem Even Worse](#)." Go to the site and look around. What is the name of the publication? What are the other articles about? Who do you think reads this publication on a regular basis? What type of information are they interested in? How old do you think **the audience** is? Why? What jobs do you think the audience might have?