

8.7

WRITING

Essay introductions

I can write a well-organised and cohesive essay introduction using a range of linking words and phrases.



Australia



Alaska, USA



California, USA

1 **SPEAKING** Look at the photos. Discuss what links them.

2 **SPEAKING** Read the task and discuss the questions.

It has been widely accepted that governments need to take action to tackle global warming. Write an essay in which you present your opinion on the topic. Discuss the following aspects:

- information campaigns,
- alternative sources of energy,
- transport sector.

- 1 Why is global warming posing a threat to our planet?
- 2 Is there a consensus over the optimal solutions to the problem?
- 3 Who should information campaigns be aimed at and why?
- 4 What is the advantage of alternative energy sources over fossil fuels?
- 5 What strategies of dealing with the transport sector as a source of greenhouse gases can you propose?
- 6 What is your own viewpoint on global warming?

3 **Read the essay to see if the author answers the questions from Exercise 2. Were your ideas similar?**

It is now widely accepted that our planet faces potential catastrophe as a result of rising temperatures caused by greenhouse gas emissions. What exactly should be done to avoid this fate is the subject of fierce debate. Some people feel that governments should focus on educating the public and raising awareness, whereas others claim the most urgent course of action is to reduce our consumption of fossil fuels, however difficult that may be.

There is a strong argument in favour of public information campaigns. Amazing though this may seem, many people fail to recognise the link between global warming and the increasing occurrence of extreme weather events such as drought and flooding. Governments fear discussing climate change in case they upset the business community and damage the economy. Regardless, it seems to me that campaigns of the kind used to tackle health issues like smoking are needed to shock the public out of their naivety and blindness.

At the same time, it must be said that reducing our dependence on fossil fuels has a major role to play in limiting future greenhouse gas emissions. One way this can be done is by promoting clean energy technologies such as renewables and nuclear power. While some environmentalists argue that nuclear energy is unacceptably dangerous, in my view it is clear that renewables alone cannot replace fossil fuels. Another strategy is to tackle the transport sector. Governments should slash cheap flights, raise petrol taxes and promote green cars. Better public transport could also make a significant contribution.

In conclusion, while it is important to educate people, I would argue that the most effective way to tackle global warming is to keep fossil fuels in the ground. Climate change can be stopped in its tracks provided that governments implement policies to force businesses and individuals to take action. Even if this means we might not be as prosperous as we are now, it is no excuse for failing to save the planet for future generations.