

Integrated Writing Task: Main Steps

- **Read:** You will read a short text of about 230-300 words on an academic topic for 3 minutes. You may take notes on the reading passage.
- **Listen:** After reading the text, you will listen to a lecture discussing the same topic from a different perspective for about 2 minutes. You may take notes on the lecture.
- **Write:** You will have 20 minutes to write a 150- to 225-word summary in response to the following kinds of questions:

QUESTION TYPES

Casting Doubt

- Summarize the points made in the lecture, being sure to explain how they cast doubt on specific points made in the reading passage.
- Summarize the points made in the lecture, being sure to explain how they challenge specific claims/arguments made in the reading passage.

Introduction	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. The reading passage and lecture both discuss the spread of cane toads in Australia.2. The reading passage states that.....3. However, the lecturer rejects the claim made in the reading, casting doubt all the three (points) presented in the passage.
Body Paragraph 1	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. First, the passage asserts that ...2. According to the reading, this3. Nevertheless, the lecture puts forward the counterargument that ...
Body Paragraph 2	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Next, the passage mentions that ...2. As declared by the passage, ...3. The lecture, however, states that ...
Body Paragraph 3	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. The passage finally argues that ...2. As stated by the passage, ...3. Rejecting this final (point) made in the reading, the lecture argues that ...

The cane toad is a large (1.8 kg) amphibian species native to Central and South America. It was deliberately introduced to Australia in 1935 with the expectation that it would protect farmers' crops by eating harmful insects. Unfortunately, the toad multiplied rapidly, and a large cane toad population now threatens small native animals that are not pests. Several measures have been proposed to stop the spread of the cane toad in Australia.

One way to prevent the spread of the toad would be to build a national fence. A fence that blocks the advance of the toads will prevent them from moving into those parts of Australia that they have not yet colonized. This approach has been used before: a national fence was erected in the early part of the twentieth century to prevent the spread of rabbits, another animal species that was introduced in Australia from abroad and had a harmful impact on its native ecosystems.

Second, the toads could be captured and destroyed by volunteers. Cane toads can easily be caught in simple traps and can even be captured by hand. Young toads and cane toad eggs are even easier to gather and destroy, since they are restricted to the water. If the Australian government were to organize a campaign among Australian citizens to join forces to destroy the toads, the collective effort might stop the toad from spreading.

Third, researchers are developing a disease-causing virus to control the cane toad populations. This virus will be specially designed: although it will be able to infect a number of reptile and amphibian species, it will not harm most of the infected species; it will specifically harm only the cane toads. The virus will control the population of cane toads by preventing them from maturing and reproducing.

I. Problem:

Solution 1:

How does it work?

Solution 2:

How does it work?

Solution 3:

How does it work?

Introduction

1. The reading passage and lecture both discuss the spread of cane toads in Australia.
2. The reading passage states that introduced to protect farmers against harmful insects, cane toads are now posing a threat to native animals there; the passage proposes three measures to stop the proliferation of such toads.
3. However, the lecture rejects the claim made in the reading, casting doubt all the three measures presented in the passage.

Body Paragraph 1

1. First, the passage asserts that a national fence can be erected to prevent the spread of cane toads.
2. According to the reading, cane toads cannot get across the fence and colonize the other regions in Australia where they are no trouble yet.
3. Nevertheless, the lecture puts forward the counterargument that the national fence proposed in the reading is ineffective in that you young cane toads and cane toads' eggs can easily the fence in water and establish themselves in new regions.

1. **Next, the passage mentions that** it is possible to have some volunteers catch and destroy cane toads.
2. **As declared by the passage,** such volunteers can use traps to capture cane toads. They can also collect cane toads by hand. As young toads and cane toads eggs are almost always in water the measure can be easily implemented.
3. **The lecture, however, states that** using volunteers to get rid of cane toads is not that easy. Young cane toads are very similar to Australian native frog and untrained volunteer might as well inadvertently capture and destroy these native frogs, damaging the ecology.

1. **The passage finally argues that** cane toad populations can be controlled by designing a disease-causing virus.
2. **As stated by the passage,** the virus will infect the cane toads and prevent them from maturing and laying eggs without seriously harming other animal species.
3. **Rejecting this final measure explained in the reading, the lecture argues that** the infected toads may be transferred by pet collectors or researchers to Latin America, their original habitat, and infect the native populations of cane toads there, thereby inflicting irreparable damage to the ecology in that part of the world.

Listening Script:

The cane toad won't be as easy to get rid of as the reading suggests. The measures proposed by the reading are likely either to be unsuccessful or to cause unwanted environmental damage.

First of all, a national fence probably won't stop the spread of the toad. That's because young toads and toad eggs are found in rivers and streams. No matter where the fence is located, at some point there will be rivers or streams flowing from one side to the other. These waterways will be able to carry the young toads and their eggs to the other side. Since it's only necessary for a few young toads or eggs to get through the fence in order to establish population on the other side, the fence is unlikely to be effective.

Secondly, a massive group of volunteers could have success trapping and destroying toads. But it's likely that these untrained volunteers would inadvertently destroy many of Australia's native frogs. Some of which are endangered. It's not always easy to tell the cane toad apart from native frogs especially when it's young.

Third, using the virus is a bad idea because it could have terrible consequences for cane toads in their original habitat in Central and South America. You might be wondering how can a virus released in Australia cause harm in the America. Well, Australian reptiles and amphibians are often transported to other continents by researchers or pet collectors for example. Once the animals infected by the virus reach Central and South America, the virus will attack the native cane toads and devastate their populations. That would be an ecological disaster because in the America cane toads are a native species and a vital part of the ecosystem. So if they are eliminated, the whole ecosystem will suffer.

Rejection:

Counter.. 1:

Counter.. 2:

Counter.. 3:



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