

FDU Vancouver English Placement Test Example

Prompt: The fashion industry is important for the economy. However, as more people become aware of and concerned for the environment, there is growing criticism that it is not eco-friendly. Some believe that consumers should change their fashion habits and spending practices to force the industry to change, even if that means a negative impact on the economy.

Assignment: Take a position on this issue. Write an essay that makes your viewpoint clear, arguing with specific reasons, ideas, and examples.

The essay is written as follows:

People of all ages love to be fashionable, and that means trying to look like others or be unique. Many people spend a great deal of money to buy the season's newest styles, which have exciting changes in colours, fabrics, and designs. Whether the products are expensive quality items or cheap "knock-offs," the industry and the economy benefit. However, the environment does not. Increasingly, there is concern about how the manufacturing of clothing harms the environment, and so things need to change. **Consumers should stop following fashion trends and stop supporting the fashion industry.**

The *introduction*, which is descriptive, opens the topic and provides information and some background. It serves to highlight issues and leads to the thesis statement.

A clear **thesis statement** establishes the writer's stance (position) on the argument.

Some companies do create clothing with eco-friendly materials and processes. For example, bamboo has become very popular because it is a sustainable product. Also, if a manufacturer uses natural dyes, then less harm is done to the environment. **However, more often, the industry uses more destructive materials.** Making a leather jacket or pair of shoes requires animal hides, and the process requires strong chemical dyes and softeners that can damage the earth. Activists have created awareness, and so people who are conscious of bad practices boycott certain products, but more people need to speak with their wallets and stop buying items that do not respect the environment.

The **topic sentence** expresses the focus of the paragraph. This is also a **counter argument** statement to the thesis (an opposing view).

This **transition** returns the reader to the original position by arguing for the thesis, which is followed with clear examples and support.
* 'However' is an example of a transition word used in a meaningful way.

Producing fashion is costly and wasteful. Resources are depleted and misused because fabrics and dyes are needed for each new line of clothing. This can be good for business, as producers of raw materials and clothing manufacturers earn more money when fashions change, but it is not good for the environment. The slim-leg navy cropped pants for spring are replaced by wide-leg brown trousers for fall, and this means that new becomes old in a very quick cycle. Items are thrown out before they are fully worn, which adds to over-flowing landfills. When the environment is damaged through careless use, everyone suffers.

← This **topic sentence** has a clear connection back to the introduction and thesis.

Examples help readers relate, by offering specific details that explain larger, more generalized ideas.

The future safety of the natural world depends on people making responsible choices, which includes changing fashion habits and practices. Consumers can create their own sense of fashion without following what big companies dictate. Many people already share their 'old' clothes with friends or buy or re-purpose previously worn clothing, which will slow down the overuse of natural resources and harmful manufacturing processes. Fashion is big business, and marketing is very persuasive, but style does not have to mean purchasing something new every few months.

← This **topic sentence** does not require a transition word.
*Transitions should not begin paragraphs unless they create meaningful connections.

People love fashion, but they also love to go out into nature and enjoy a clean environment. Therefore, it is important that people develop sustainable habits and practices. The fashion industry has gone beyond what is reasonable and must become more careful to protect the environment. The public should send a strong message by refusing to spend money just to follow the latest fashions.

← The **opening** of the **conclusion** directly links back to the introduction.

Overall, the **conclusion** reinforces the position statement. It adds no new information but also supports the thesis in a fresh way.