# **The One-Paragraph Essay**

A six-or-seven sentence paragraph in which a topic is stated in the first sentence, and the next sentences represent subtopics.

Example:

Pollution is a serious problem in today’s world, and the threat is growing. There are many types of pollution. One example is plastics, which are impacting the oceans more and more. Another is air pollution from ships. Another type is runoff from farm waste that enters rivers. Factory pollution is also a growing concern. Human beings, through cooling systems such as refrigerators and air conditioners, are also polluters.

Next, have students rewrite the paragraph so that each sentence mentions the topic of the next sentence.

Rewrite:

Pollution is a serious problem in today’s world, and various types of threats are only growing. One can see that both land and water pollution is getting worse. For example, the oceans are becoming more and more polluted by plastic, and that is not the only pollution we see occurring there. Emissions from ships are damaging the atmosphere more and more; often this is related to food production and transportation, though it is hardly the only example. Waste from farms, one of several threats occurring on land, is entering rivers at an increasing rate, damaging rivers, the land, and the ocean. Another threat occurring on the land is pollution from factories, one of several land threats to the atmosphere. For example, people in private residencies, through cooling devices such as refrigerators and air conditioners, are sending dangerous gases into the air on a daily basis.