**Critical reading sample paragraph 1**

*Read this passage and make a note of those words which best expresses the author’s feelings about man’s destruction of the natural environment.*

The farmer knows something that the whole of civilized mankind seems to have forgotten, namely, that the resources of life on our planet are not inexhaustible. In the United States, it was only after the wide expanses of ploughland hard been turned into desert through ruthless exploitation of the top soil, after large districts had been devastatingly by tree-felling, and countless useful animal species had become extinct that these facts gradually began to be realized again, mainly because many large agricultural, fishing and whaling industries began to feel the effects financially. Nevertheless, the truth has only just begun to penetrate to the consciousness of the general public.

When civilized man destroys in blind vandalism the natural habitat surrounding and sustaining him, he threatens himself with ecological ruin. Once he begins to feel this economically he will probably realize his mistakes, but by then it may be too late. Least of all does he notice how much this barbarian process damages his own mind.

How can one expect a sense of reverential awe for anything in the young when all they see around them is man-made and the cheapest and ugliest of its kind? For the city dweller, even his view of the sky is obscured by the skyscrapers and chemical clouding of the atmosphere. No wonder the progress of civilization goes hand in hand with the deplorable disfigurement of town and country.

*Konrad Lorenz, Civilized Man’s Eight Deadly Sins*