

## Handout 4

### Exercise 1.

Read notes on a source text below. Then read paragraph A and paragraph B, which are responding to the source text. Check which paragraph uses the four strategies in the chart below.

<b>Author:</b>	Lincoln, Anthony
<b>Article title:</b>	“FYI: TMI” from journal <i>First Monday</i>
<b>Date:</b>	March 2011
<b>Main idea:</b>	The large amount of information available to us in the age of technology seems like an advantage, but it has actually caused problems.
<b>Supporting idea 1:</b>	Useful information online can easily be “contaminated” (made dirty, or poisoned) with information that might not be fully accurate.
<b>Supporting idea 2:</b>	People conduct research thinking that they understand and can handle information overload, but they may not be able to do that.

## A

It is undeniable that we are currently in an age of technology. The author believes most people do not understand information overload or how to handle it. He gives some examples in the article of how information overload is negative. The examples are supposed to support his thesis. Sometimes too much information can overwhelm people. A lot of web users follow multiple websites and blogs, but they may not notice their differences because there are so many choices. Other people are able to handle all the information and make wise choices about which sites offer useful information, and which have “contaminated” information.

## B

Lincoln’s article is interesting, but he focusses too much on the negative side of all the information we have in the “age of technology”. Maybe this is because others who have written on this topic usually highlight the benefits. It is true that information which we get from the web and social media can be less accurate than an original source due to “contamination.” However, his examples to support the second problem are not convincing. He claims that we tend not to understand information overload or know how to handle it. The examples he gives for this are confusing, and I don’t agree that they are applicable to everyone, such as serious scholars or web designers.

	A	B
1. The writer has a topic sentence that identifies which idea she is responding to and states her opinion about it.		
2. The writer identifies whether she agrees or disagrees with the idea.		
3. The writer gives examples to illustrate why she agrees or disagrees.		
4. The writer evaluates how well the source text explains its ideas.		

### **Exercise 2.**

Now decide which paragraph you think does a better job of using the strategies, A or B. Discuss your answer with a partner.

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1. Asplin, W., Jacob, M. F., Kennedy, A. S., & Lambert, J. (2015). *Final Draft Level 4 Student's Book* (1st ed.). Cambridge University Press.