

Example: Environment

This is the introductory section of [an article about climate change and society published in *Lens*](#) (Monash University). The article is organised using a combination of Problem/Solution(s) and Question/Answer(s) structures. The article moves from broad description to specific commentary in this introductory section.

Four ways we can change our behaviour to adapt to the climate crisis

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This year, Australians have already watched several climate disasters unfold across the continent, from [coral bleaching](#) to [devastating floods](#) and [bushfires](#). These are stark reminders of how climate change can wreak havoc on communities – destroying homes, lives and ecosystems.

The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) recently [made it clear](#) we can expect both more disasters and long-term environmental changes, even if we restrict global warming to the internationally agreed limit of 1.5°C this century.

Headline gives concise information about topic and content. Use of collective pronouns – ‘we’, ‘our’ – invites reader engagement and implication. ✓

Expert author’s professional position and affiliation. 💡

Opens with a short list-style including a broad anecdote about climate problems. Use of collective address – ‘Australians’ – creates a sense of immediacy and audience engagement. Notice the use of familiar, informal language and a short, concise paragraph. ✓

Hyperlinks offer the opportunity to link to other relevant articles that provide more information on topics which are beyond the scope of the current article. 💡

Legend

✓ Good practice

✎ Needs improvement

💡 Comment

In its [February report](#), the IPCC urged us to better-adapt to challenges already locked in. This, however, can feel daunting when many measures required to adapt are outside our personal control, such as bolstering the national economy and reducing industrial greenhouse gas emissions.

Reference to institutional expert report and evidence to substantiate the climate crisis problem by addressing a specific climate issue. The use of the report is good but the citation could have been improved if it linked to the actual report rather than a news article *about* the report. ✎

Continued use of collective pronouns – ‘us’, ‘our’ – to engage the audience. ✓

It’s [often problematic](#) when complex challenges are framed narrowly as the responsibility of individuals to fix themselves. However, it’s becoming [increasingly clear](#) that big shifts can come from many such changes. During the COVID pandemic, for example, many individual decisions made a huge difference to public health outcomes.

Hyperlinks to academic journal articles, to provide supporting evidence. ✓

Sets a framework for the argument to be developed in the article. Notice the use of contraction- “it’s”. Another short paragraph with familiar language. 💡

So how can we, personally, prepare for a future with not only more frequent natural disasters, but one that will also profoundly change the environment, communities and the economy? Let’s look at our options.

This paragraph sets the structure of the article as Question-Answer(s) or Problem/Solution(s). Notice the following features: the question works as a ‘hook’ to capture the reader’s interest, the continued use of collective pronouns to maintain audience engagement and implication in the issue and a short paragraph using familiar, informal language. ✓

Source

Kaufman, S. (2022 August 1). *Four ways we can change our behaviour to adapt to the climate crisis*. Lens. <https://lens.monash.edu/@environment/2022/08/01/1384629/4-ways-we-can-change-our-behaviour-to-adapt-to-the-climate-crisis-stefan-kaufman-senior-research-fellow-monash-university>