

# Academic Essay Model

**Title** Many of the world's rainforests are being destroyed. Discuss the **causes of this destruction**; focusing on **logging, mining and agriculture**, and discuss the **effects on the environment** and **humans**.

Introduction	
<p>* General topic of research</p> <p>* Background and/or history of the topic</p> <p>* Define key term/s</p> <p>* Why topic interesting and/or important</p> <p>* Aim of the essay</p> <p>* Sequence of the main points</p>	<p><i>Tropical R.F. - face major env. problems</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Located in (1) S. America, (2) Central Africa, (3) S.E. Asia.</i></li> <li>• <i>Apprx. 70% of all species on Earth (Collins, 1991)</i></li> <li>• <i>Deforestation rates: 78 million acres/year</i></li> <li><i>^^ (Internet Geography, 2007)</i></li> </ul> <p><i>Deforestation: cutting down trees &gt;&gt; massive scale &gt;&gt; large scale &gt;&gt; long term effects</i></p> <p><i>Will discuss the issue of deforestation</i></p> <p><i>(1) causes - e.g. logging / mining / agriculture (2) effects - environment (3) effects - human</i></p>

Body Paragraph 1: <span style="background-color: yellow; padding: 2px 5px;"><i>Causes of Tropical Rainforest - Deforestation</i></span>	
<p>* Main idea (a sentence setting out the paragraph's focus)</p> <p>* Supporting details, explanations &amp; examples</p>	<p><i>Commercial logging + mining &amp; agriculture</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>1. Commercial logging - ITTO - commercial logging - largest single cause forest destruction (Lange, 2011)</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>- 5 million hectares cut/year. (Save the Rainforest, 2005)</i></li> <li><i>- Wood used for construction + furniture.</i></li> </ul> </li> <li><i>2. Mining - Exposed soil - rains wash away rich soil → forest can't grow back (Internet Geography, 2007)</i></li> <li><i>3. Large scale agriculture - Forest cleared for agriculture</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>E.g. cattle grazing - beef exported</i></li> <li><i>- rich nations -high profit (Lange, 2011))</i></li> </ul> </li> </ol>

<b>Body Paragraph 2:</b> <b>ENVIRONMENTAL EFFECTS</b>	
<p>* Main idea (a sentence setting out the paragraph's focus)</p> <p>* Supporting details, explanations &amp; examples</p>	<p><b>1. Loss of biodiversity:</b> Forests = high biodiversity - 50-70% of all species (Internet Geography, 2007)</p> <p>Deforest. cause extinctions - 40 species dying/day (Collins, 1991)</p> <p><b>2. Climate change:</b> RF - when destroyed air above forests = hotter + drier &gt;&gt; climate change other areas (Collins, 1991)</p> <p><b>3. Greenhouse effect</b> - RF cleared by burning trees &gt;&gt; -- big amounts of CO2 released [increases global warming]</p> <p>-- Amazon fires - 500 million tons of CO2 per year (Collins, 1991)</p>

<b>Body Paragraph 3:</b> <b>HUMAN EFFECTS [consequences]</b>	
<p>* Main idea (a sentence setting out the paragraph's focus)</p> <p>* Supporting details, explanations &amp; examples</p>	<p>Effects of rainforest destruction - human related</p> <p><b>1. Loss of medicines</b></p> <p>RF= important source of med. / pharmaceuticals - 25% meds from RF</p> <p>&lt;1% RF. vegetation studied to date (Collins, 1991)</p> <p><b>2. Loss of native people's homeland</b></p> <p>&gt;&gt; Approx. 50 million people worldwide = rainforest residents + depend on RF for survival (Collins, 1991)</p> <p>&gt;&gt; People relocated due to logging, mining, &amp; large scale commercial farming</p>

<b>Source references, formatted to APA citations</b>
<p>(Collins, 1991)</p> <p>(Internet Geography, 2007)</p> <p>(Lange, 2011)</p> <p>(Save the Rainforest, 2005)</p>

Conclusion	
<p>* Restate the essay's aim</p> <p>Summarise the main points covered</p> <p>Select 2 or more of the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Personal opinion/suggestion</li> <li>• Call for further research</li> <li>• Predict future developments</li> </ul>	<p><i>[In conclusion,] discussed tropical rainforest destruction</i></p> <p><i>&gt;&gt; Causes: = large scale + industrial - logging, mining, agriculture</i></p> <p><i>&gt;&gt; Effects: Env. - e.g., loss of biodiversity + climate change</i></p> <p><i>&gt;&gt;&gt; Effects: Human - e.g., loss of medicine + homelands</i></p> <p><i>More research - specific effects on climate change + greenhouse effect</i></p> <p><i>Deforest. Continues... unique ecosystem may be lost forever</i></p>

## EXAMPLE ESSAY

One ecosystem that is facing major environmental problems is the tropical rainforest. Tropical rainforests are found in South America, Central Africa and South East Asia. These are areas of constant high temperatures and rainfall, and are home to the majority of plant and animal species found on Earth. Rainforests are very important. However, they are slowly being destroyed by deforestation at a rate of 78 million acres a year (Internet Geography, 2007). It is the massive scale of this process that concerns environmentalists and scientists. They claim that clearing large areas of rainforest could lead to disastrous long-term effects. Therefore, the purpose of this essay is to discuss the causes of deforestation and its effects on humans and the environment.

The main causes of deforestation are commercial logging, mining and large-scale agriculture. The International Tropical Timber Organization claims that commercial logging is the largest single cause of forest destruction (Lange, 2011) and research shows that five million hectares are destroyed every year to provide wood for the construction industry (Save the Rainforest, 2005). In addition to this, mining in the rainforests also leads to deforestation. Land for mining is cleared of all vegetation, causing soil erosion (Internet Geography, 2007). Agricultural land use is another major cause of deforestation. For example, enormous areas of forest are cleared for cattle grazing. This grazing is usually to meet demand for beef in other parts of the world (Lange, 2011).

As a result of deforestation, there are several effects on the environment. The first of these is the loss of biodiversity. Although rainforests account for only a small proportion of the land surface of the planet they provide the habitat for 50 to 70% of all species on Earth (Internet Geography, 2007). However, Collins (1991) states that every day 40 species become extinct and as a result, biodiversity is being reduced. Deforestation also leads to climate change. As forests are destroyed, the air above them becomes hotter and drier. Collins (1991) claims this affects the circulation of water and therefore may affect climate in other regions. Furthermore, the amount of CO<sub>2</sub> absorbed after deforestation is reduced, which increases the greenhouse effect and makes global warming worse. According to Collins (1991), annual burning of the Amazon rainforest produces 500 million tons of CO<sub>2</sub>, which is released into the atmosphere.

As well as these effects on the environment, deforestation can affect humans. Firstly, there is the possible loss of valuable medicines. Collins (1991) states that 25% of modern pharmaceuticals originate from tropical rainforests. Further destruction of this valuable resource could mean the extinction of plant species that could contain cures for diseases such as cancer and AIDS (Save the Rainforest, 2005). Deforestation also leads to the loss of land for indigenous people. It is estimated that 50 million people worldwide live in and depend directly upon rainforests (Internet Geography, 2007). Many of these people face the loss of their homeland as a consequence of the activities associated with deforestation.

*In conclusion, this essay has discussed the deforestation of tropical rainforests. It has focused on how commercial logging, mining and large scale agriculture has led to deforestation. The effects of this are harmful to animal and plant species, as well as the indigenous people who live there. It is clear that the cutting down of trees on such an enormous scale will have negative effects for a very long time. More research should be carried out on the specific effects of this forest clearance on climate change and the greenhouse effect. Otherwise, in the future, a unique ecosystem may be lost forever.*

*Words = 595*

**YeeHaa**