



STUDENT ACTIVITIES

Reading

YES

Dear Sir/Madam

I went to Antarctica for my last holidays, and it was one of the best things I've ever done. It was a thrilling experience, and worth every penny it cost me. It made me much more conscious of the impact we humans have on the environment, and made me realise how important it is to preserve the untouched places that we still have.

The penguins are unforgettable: not just the sight of them all huddled in close together, but also the sounds – and the smells. And the icebergs! No photograph or film footage comes close to preparing you for their truly awesome presence. They are spectacularly beautiful, full of light and shade, mysterious and marvellous.

The company that I travelled with is a member of IAATO (the International Association of Antarctic Tour Operators) and had very strong guidelines about what we were allowed to do and where we could go. Tourist operators in other parts of the world could certainly learn a lot from them. Our company had to fill in a log at the end of the cruise with details about where we had been, how many of us went ashore each day, and so on. The company also helps out some of the research scientists and other base personnel by transporting them or their equipment from one place to another.

Go to Antarctica if you possibly can. You will treasure the memories all your life. The cliché is true: it *will* change your life.

Yours

Voula Stavros

Tourism in Antarctica?

NO

Dear Sir/Madam

I am writing to express my disappointment about tourism in Antarctica. Why can't we leave the world's last wilderness alone? Let the penguins and the seals continue to live undisturbed by humans. Tourists mess about in rubber boats, take too many photographs and leave rubbish and oil spills behind them.

Every intrusion can harm the fragile landscape: moss banks take decades to recover from even a single footstep, and no one knows the amount of long-term damage done to penguin rookeries that are visited by humans over and over.

With increasing tourist numbers, there is a much greater risk of accidents, both in the icy waters off the coast of Antarctica, and at the various sites where tourists are shipped ashore. Who would clean up an oil spill? What would be the cost? Who pays for rescue attempts when grand adventure holidays go horribly wrong? How many diseases are being introduced to the Antarctic wildlife by people having a fun time at the locals' expense?

Tourists are in Antarctica by choice—let them choose somewhere else to spend their money and get their thrills.

Yours

Thomas Nguyen



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Reading

1. Skim the layout of the *Tourism in Antarctica*? List 4 things that you notice about the way the article is presented on the page.
2. After sharing your list in a class discussion, write a brief statement predicting what you might expect to be in these two texts. Do you expect the two texts to be similar or different? Explain your answer.
3. Read Voula's letter and list two techniques that you think she uses to persuade her audience.

23 One of the techniques that Thomas uses in his letter is

- alerting readers to the dangers of Antarctica.
- appealing to readers' concerns about money.
- providing readers with expert opinions from scientists.
- implying that readers who disagree with him are irresponsible.

4. Read the question above and then read Thomas' letter.
5. Choose an answer to question 23 from the alternatives provided. Be prepared to justify your choice in a class discussion.