The following is a quote from *Chocky*, a novel by John Wyndham first published in 1968. In the novel an intelligent being from another planet is given the task of investigating Earth to see if it would be a suitable planet to colonise. This is what he says about it.

Everything you are, and have, you owe to the radiations from your sun. … Recently you have learnt to exploit the stored-up energy of your sun – for that is what all your fuels are – and you call that progress. It is not progress. … You are squandering your sources of power. And they are your capital: when they are spent you will be back where you were before you found them. This is not progress, it is profligacy.

To what extent do you agree with Chocky’s analysis? Discuss with reference to the articles we have read and the work we have done in class.

Rhetorical structure

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| First of all, I think that it’s extremely difficult to discuss this subject, since it almost requires a philosophical approach, for lack of a better term, so I decided to share a personal view on the topic. | Introduction   * Preview of approach |
| As long as I can remember, I’ve been asked, in school, to share my opinion toward the management of natural resources. Sometimes I wonder if we have all the information necessary to develop such opinions, even when we are supposed to make a simple analysis. What I can say is that with all the information that’s stored in my brain and based on my beliefs, |  |
| I don’t think that the people responsible for managing natural resources are doing such a good job, | Claim 1 |
| so | (conjunction) |
| you could say that I agree with Chocky’s analysis. | Thesis |
| I like to believe that people, after many years, are finally acknowledging the mistakes they’ve committed and are trying to change, | Evidence for claim 2 |
| so | (conjunction) |
| this can only demonstrate the growing awareness of the need to explore and manage natural resources in a more viable way. | Claim 2 |
| The text “Oil prices lift demand for hybrids” is related with this idea since it depicts how society is adapting to the changes in oil markets and trying to use less gas and more electricity, which is a “greener” way of transportation. | Evidence for claim 2 |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Chocky’s view that mankind is wasting his reserves of fuel is almost as valid today as when the novel was published in 1968. | Thesis |
| The management of natural resources is a complex task but it is not always carried out efficiently by those in charge of it. | Claim 1 |
| Nevertheless, | (conjunction) |
| people may now finally be acknowledging the mistakes they have committed and be trying to change. | Claim 2 |
| This growing awareness of the need to explore and manage natural resources in a more viable way is reflected in the text “Oil prices lift demand for hybrids”, which depicts how society is adapting to the changes in oil markets and trying to use less gas and more electricity. There is evidence that more people are prepared to pay a premium for a “greener” form of transportation. | Evidence for claim 2 |

**Making the subjective objective**

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| --- | --- |
|  | First of all, I think that it’s extremely difficult to discuss this subject, since it almost requires a philosophical approach, for lack of a better term, so I decided to share a personal view on the topic. |
|  | As long as I can remember, I’ve been asked, in school, to share my opinion toward the management of natural resources. |
| Idea 1 | Sometimes I wonder if we have all the information necessary to develop such opinions, even when we are supposed to make a simple analysis. |
|  | What I can say is that with all the information that’s stored in my brain and based on my beliefs, |
| Idea 2 | I don’t think that |
| Idea 3 | that the people responsible for managing natural resources are doing such a good job, |
| Idea 4 | so you could say that |
| Idea 5 | I agree with |
| Idea 6 | Chocky’s analysis. |
| Idea 7 | I like to believe that |
| Idea 8 | people, after many years, are finally acknowledging the mistakes they’ve committed and are trying to change, |
|  | so |
|  | this can only demonstrate the growing awareness of the need to explore and manage natural resources in a more viable way. The text “Oil prices lift demand for hybrids” is related with this idea since it depicts how society is adapting to the changes in oil markets and trying to use less gas and more electricity, which is a “greener” way of transportation. |

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Idea 6 | Chocky’s view that mankind is wasting his reserves of fuel | Chocky’s analysis. |
| Idea 5… | is | I agree with |
| Idea 4 | almost | so you could say that |
| …idea 5 | as valid today as when the novel was published in 1968. | I agree with |
| Idea 1 | The management of natural resources is a complex task | Sometimes I wonder if we have all the information necessary to develop such opinions, even when we are supposed to make a simple analysis. |
|  | but |  |
| Idea 3… | it is | that the people responsible for managing natural resources are |
| Idea 2 | not always | I don’t think that |
| …idea 3 | carried out efficiently by those in charge of it. | doing such a good job, |
|  | Nevertheless, |  |
| Idea 8… | people | people, |
| Idea 6 | may | I like to believe that |
| …idea 8 | now finally be acknowledging the mistakes they have committed and be trying to change. | after many years, are finally acknowledging the mistakes they’ve committed and are trying to change, |
|  | This growing awareness of the need to explore and manage natural resources in a more viable way is reflected in the text “Oil prices lift demand for hybrids”, which depicts how society is adapting to the changes in oil markets and trying to use less gas and more electricity. There is evidence that more people are prepared to pay a premium for a “greener” form of transportation. |  |