**Smarthinking Tutor Response Form**

Your tutor has written overview comments about your essay in the form below. Your tutor has also embedded comments **[in bold and in brackets]** within your essay. Thank you for choosing Smarthinking to help you improve your writing!

Hello, Shelleena! My name’s Christia C., and I look forward to working with you on this **Extended Essay Review**to improve your writing today. Let’s get started!

**\*Writing Strength:** You employ and interpret excerpts that you cite from verifiable outside resources, such as the Pew Research Center. Hence, your readers will find your ideas and research work more confirmable and plausible. Excellent job, Shelleena!

**\*Shelleena 8352605 has requested that you respond to the Introduction/Conclusion:**Your introduction can still be improved through additional informative details on the concept of divorce. These details can help establish further context with your readers. Consider your responses to these guiding questions: *First* and foremost, w**hat *exactly* is “***divorce***”**? What are the connotations and denotations behind **“***divorce***”**? **When and where *precisely* was “***divorce***” *first* conceptualized, and who did, if available?** What was the earliest recorded **“***divorce***”**? You might want to *briefly* yet *clearly* describe this instance in a *short* yet *clear* sentence. Why is **“***divorce***”** such an important matter in family law? Are there any current, remarkable news affairs tied with **“***divorce***”**? What are the consequences of ignoring/overlooking the relevance, significance, or impacts of **“***divorce***”**? I advise you to use these questions as guides to make your introduction more detailed.

**\*Shelleena 8352605 has requested that you respond to the Main Idea/Thesis: Your statement can still benefit from more specificity:**

*However, despite the decrease in marriages, there has been an increase in divorce for two main reasons.*

If you make your statement more specific, you give your readers a *complete* preview of your paper’s contents. Consider these guiding queries: What *exactly* are the contributors to the increase in divorce? What *precisely* are the impacts of this increase? What are the *specific* action plans or alternatives that you recommend, which will address this situation? Here’s an example outline:

*Divorce rates have increased because \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, and it has resulted in \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, although this situation can be addressed by \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.*

Notice that this statement will specify the causes and effects of your elected issue, as well as your recommendations. If you wish to employ a similar outline, ***change*** the number of blanks and ***use your own words*** according to your ***instructor’s requirements***, body paragraphs’ contents, and your own preferences.

**Use of Resources:** Your in–text citations can still *completely* adhere to the style guide of the *American Psychological Association* (APA):

*Warren indicated that “between 1940 and 1950, divorce rates remained near 10 divorces for every 1,000 married women; however, by 1979, the rate had doubled” (2019).*

This parenthetical citation can still benefit from a page/paragraph number. Here’s a documentation error of a student who’s supposed to follow the style guide of APA:

*The misconduct in question is found to be “a glaring evidence of Belen’s self-absorption.” (Kurimoto, 2017)*

There’s no signal phrase used because the student blended the quotation into his own sentence, which is perfectly acceptable. What we will address here is the misplaced parenthetical citation in addition to the missing page number. The parenthetical citation should come *after* the closing double quotation mark (*”*) but *before* the terminal punctuation mark—in this case, the period (.). Here’s the revision:

*The misconduct in question is found to be “a glaring evidence of Belen’s self-absorption” (Kurimoto, 2017, p. 70).*

If only a parenthetical citation is used, such as when blending quotations into one’s own sentence, then the author’s surname, publication year, and page number are contained in parentheses. Here’s an example of a sentence that employs a signal phrase and cites the page number:

*According to Teleki (2009), “the fate of the Roma or ‘Gypsies’ during the Holocaust is not well known despite the fact that they were targeted for extinction by National Socialist Germany” (p. 91).*

In this example, the sentence starts with a signal phrase including the author’s surname followed by the publication year in parentheses. “*91*” is the page number, and it also goes in parentheses between the closing quotation mark and the period. In the event that page numbers aren’t present, you can use paragraph numbers instead. You can count paragraphs down from the start**¹**. You can also place the section heading and a paragraph number inside said section**²**. If the section heading is extremely lengthy, you can put a shorter title in double quotation marks**³**.

**¹**(Compassion and Responsibility for Animals [CARA], 2000, para. 1)

**²**(Compassion and Responsibility for Animals [CARA], 2000, “About CARA,” para. 1)

**³**(Compassion and Responsibility for Animals [CARA], 2000, “The New CARA Clinic”)

For more details, refer to [APA Style](http://services.smarthinking.com/static/document_library/docs/writeman/2_03_09_02.cfm).

**Summary Of Next Steps:**

* **Enhance your introductory paragraph.**
* Ensure that your statement *completely* unites the causes, effects, and alternatives to your chosen issue.
* Ensure your in–text citations *fully* conform to the style guide of the *American Psychological Association*.

Thank you for submitting your essay for a review. I enjoyed helping you with this step in the revision process. Have a good day, Shelleena! — Christia C.

You can find more information about writing, grammar, and usage in the [Smarthinking Writer’s Handbook](http://services.smarthinking.com/static/Document_Library/docs/writeman/contents.cfm%22%20%5Ct%20%22https%3A//services.smarthinking.com/offlinerequest/showEssayResponse/_blank).

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Please look for comments **[in bold and in brackets]** in your essay below.
Thank you for submitting your work to Smarthinking! We hope to see you again soon.

Divorce Rates Increase

Shelleena Baxter

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Divorce Rates Increase

To get marriage is the goal of all or the majority of intimate relationships. However, they seem to be a shift amongst our generation. Young adults no longer seem to be interested in marriage and when they do get married, they easily get a divorce for different reasons. Some couples fight before they get a divorce while others do not. Some exhaust counseling, try separation, include other parties in their marriages and when all fails, the result is divorce. Research done by marriage lawyers indicates that “It is commonly believed that 50 percent of marriages will end in divorce” (Attorneys.com, n.d.). **[Refrain from putting parenthetical citations into your introduction. Your introduction serves as a hint of what readers may expect from your essay’s body. Pieces of cited information serve as supporting details for your ideas in your body paragraphs later on. Therefore, *in your own words*, how will you describe the current frequency and occurrence of divorce?]** This means that as the younger generations see divorce happening frequently, it is accepted as the solution to marital problems. This also has a direct impact on the incidence of marriages. However, despite the decrease in marriages, there has been an increase in divorce for two main reasons.

First, divorce rates have increased since the introduction of no-fault divorce law. This law was introduced in the 1950s and was only introduced in some states only. By the 1970s, it was introduced in almost every state. Before this law, couples had to prove that the marriage is unfixable and show that someone was at fault (Pew Research Center, 2017). However, with this law, they simply had to say that the marriage is not working out between the two and then move forward with a divorce. Warren indicated that “between 1940 and 1950, divorce rates remained near 10 divorces for every 1,000 married women; however, by 1979, the rate had doubled” (2019). Therefore, the laws had a great effect on divorce rates because divorce became easier with the implementation of no-fault divorce.

Second, divorce rates have also increased because cohabitation has become more acceptable. Society has painted a picture that it is okay to live together before marriage. However, couples that live together before marriage have a higher chance of divorcing after marriage (Pew Research Center, 2017). Couples exit their marriages through a divorce with the perception that cohabitation is an alternative to marriage. Some couples don’t even consider marriage because they accept cohabitation is an alternative. However, that is just what it is, a perception. These couples later reconsider marriage because that is the goal of a relationship but they are more likely to get divorced again because they accept the fact that they can cohabitate without being married. Therefore, breaking their marriages becomes acceptable since there is less responsibility to sustain relationships when couples cohabitate. If this continues, not only will divorce rate rise, marriage rates will also decrease as well (Chon, 2012). **[This is a comma splice because the comma between “*rise*” and “*marriage*” isn’t enough to show that your first sentence ends with “*rise*.” As a result, readers cannot easily separate your two complete thoughts. Here are some ways to fix a comma splice: (1) use a semicolon (;) instead of the comma, (2) join the clauses with a comma followed by a coordinating conjunction (“for,” “and,” “nor,” “but,” “or,” “yet,” and “so”), or (3) separate the clauses into individual sentences instead.]**

Nevertheless, divorce rates will continue to increase if nothing is done. Before the no-fault divorce, couples use to work things out or separate for long periods so that they can figure things out unless they are able to prove that the other partner is at fault for putting the marriage in an unfixable state. So, putting something in place of no-fault divorce will reduce the likelihood of divorcing so that it does not spill into reducing the incidence of marriage. In addition, if cohabitation is acceptable, not only will it increase divorce rates, but also will reduce the incidence of marriages in the future if our younger generation sees marriage as something that can be easily broken. Therefore, a value must be added to marriage so that others can see divorce as the last resort regardless of the reason for considering divorce. **[Your concluding paragraph doesn’t *completely* recapitulate and reiterate the causes, effects, and alternatives to your chosen issue. In addition, your conclusion can be stronger. Here’s an example guiding query: How *precisely* do *awareness* and *application* of contributors to, impacts of, and alternatives to divorce *help* and *contribute* to your readers’ daily lives and well–being?]**

References

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Chon, D. (2012, June 26). Marriage Rate Declines and Marriage Age Rises. Retrieved from https://www.pewsocialtrends.org/2011/12/14/marriage-rate-declines-and-marriage-age-rises/

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Warren, S. (2019, March 29). 10 Most Common Reasons for Divorce. Retrieved from https://www.marriage.com/advice/divorce/10-most-common-reasons-for-divorce/