

REKOMENDUOJAMI VIDEO

(1) Will there ever be a united Europe? 9:21

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sAPQ3t-MmJw&t=22s>

(2) Our vision of a circular economy for plastic 8:11

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xmTQA-RNygQ>

RAŠYMO UŽDUOTYS_1 variantas_ Will there ever be a united Europe? 9:21

WRITING TASK 1: A SUMMARY

You are going to write a summary of information presented in a video.

Before writing, you are going to watch an informational video about the European Union. The video will be shown twice.

You can take notes if you wish.

After viewing the video, you will have 25 minutes to write a one-paragraph summary of the video content.

In your summary, you must:

- state the main idea at the beginning of your summary and rephrase it in the last sentence,*
- present the main points in the order that they are given in the video,*
- give only important details.*

Write at least 200 words, but no more than 250 words.

Use neutral (academic) register.

Use the sheets provided for your draft and your final version.

WRITING TASK 2: A BLOG POST

You are going to write a blog post responding to the ideas given in the same informational video.

In your blog post, you must:

- share your thoughts / knowledge / emotions towards what you have seen and heard in the video;*
- reflect on the EU's development and its operational principles;*
- express your opinion on challenges the EU may face in the future.*

Write at least 250 words, but no more than 300 words.

Use neutral register.

Give a title to your blog post.

Use the sheets provided for your draft and your final version.

RAŠYMO UŽDUOTYS_2 variantas_ Our vision of a circular economy for plastic 8:11

WRITING TASK 1: A SUMMARY

You are going to write a summary of information presented in a video.

Before writing, you are going to watch an informational video about a circular economy. The video will be shown twice.

You can take notes if you wish.

After viewing the video, you will have 25 minutes to write a one-paragraph summary of the video content.

In your summary, you must:

- state the main idea at the beginning of your summary and rephrase it in the last sentence,*
- present the main points in the order that they are given in the video,*
- give only important details.*

Write at least 200 words, but no more than 250 words.

Use neutral (academic) register.

Use the sheets provided for your draft and your final version.

WRITING TASK 2: A BLOG POST

You are going to write a blog post responding to the ideas given in the same informational video.

In your blog post, you must:

- share your thoughts / knowledge / emotions towards what you have seen and heard in the video;*
- reflect on the main vision points of a circular economy;*
- express your opinion on the benefits and challenges of taking such an economic approach.*

Write at least 250 words, but no more than 300 words.

Use neutral register.

Give a title to your blog post.

Use the sheets provided for your draft and your final version.

PAIR DISCUSSION NO.1

STUDENT A

You are going to read a news item.

You have to respond to the news and discuss it with a partner.

Your partner has also read the same news item.

*You have **5 minutes** to read the text and prepare for the discussion.*

*The discussion should take up to **5 minutes**.*

You are expected to:

- summarise the content / state the issue presented in the text (**Student A**);
- exchange opinions and / or emotions with the partner about the news; evaluate;
- make personal comment; relate the issue to your own experience or knowledge;
- summarise and conclude your discussion (**Student B**).

2023 confirmed as world's hottest year on record



The year 2023 was the warmest year on record, beating the previous record set in 2016. 2023 was marked by an exceptional spell of warmth, with more than 200 days breaking daily global temperature records. This was due in part to the rapid switch to El Niño conditions, which has occurred on top of long-term human-caused warming. El Niño is a climate pattern that describes the unusual warming of surface waters in the eastern tropical Pacific Ocean.

"What struck me was not just that [2023] was record-breaking, but the amount by which it broke previous records," notes Andrew Dessler, a professor of atmospheric science at Texas A&M University.

The record global warmth has had a number of consequences, including worsening extreme weather events such as heatwaves, wildfires, droughts, and floods. It has also led to record sea-ice lows, glacier melt, and ocean heatwaves.

The year 2024 could be even warmer than 2023, and there is a possibility that it may surpass the key 1.5°C warming threshold. This is concerning because it could lead to more severe and widespread climate impacts.

Facing significant challenges, there is still hope to minimise the severe impacts of climate change. Shifting to renewable energy and reducing our reliance on fossil fuels can make a crucial difference. This transition offers a vital chance to protect our planet and create a sustainable future for generations to come. Every tenth of a degree matters.

Based on <https://www.bbc.com/news/science-environment-67861954>.

PAIR DISCUSSION NO.1

STUDENT B

You are going to read a news item.

You have to respond to the news and discuss it with a partner.

Your partner has also read the same news item.

*You have **5 minutes** to read the text and prepare for the discussion.*

*The discussion should take up to **5 minutes**.*

You are expected to:

- summarise the content / state the issue presented in the text **(Student A)**;
- exchange opinions and / or emotions with the partner about the news; evaluate;
- make personal comment; relate the issue to your own experience or knowledge;
- summarise and conclude your discussion **(Student B)**.

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PAIR DISCUSSION NO. 2

STUDENT A

You are going to read a news item.

You have to respond to the news and discuss it with a partner.

Your partner has also read the same news item.

*You have **5 minutes** to read the text and prepare for the discussion.*

*The discussion should take up to **5 minutes**.*

You are expected to:

- summarise the content / state the issue presented in the text (**Student A**);
- exchange opinions and / or emotions with the partner about the news; evaluate;
- make personal comment; relate the issue to your own experience or knowledge;
- summarise and conclude your discussion (**Student B**).

India lands on the Moon's south pole



India has become the first nation to land near the Moon's south pole. The Chandrayaan-3 mission was declared a success on Wednesday 23 August. "India is now on the Moon" announced India's Prime Minister Narendra Modi. He said that the lunar landing was a success for the whole world, adding "India's successful Moon mission is not India's alone."

If frozen water is found on the south pole, scientists say humans could be one step closer to inhabiting the Moon. India's President Droupadi Murmu said that this is a "once in a lifetime" event and that India's scientists "have not only made history but also remade the idea of geography." It is India's third Chandrayaan mission. Both Chandrayaan-1 in 2008 and Chandrayaan-2 earlier in 2019 failed to successfully land. Just days ago Russia's Luna-25 shuttle failed to touch down on the same mission. But today people around the world are celebrating the first landing near the Moon's south pole.

One of the major goals of the mission is to find a supply of water or ice around the lunar south pole.

Once the dust has settled, Pragyaan rover will hunt for ice and other signs of water – snapping pictures and taking measurements and other data to be sent back down to Earth. Five scientific instruments are being sent to the Moon to learn more about its surface and below.

Based on <https://www.bbc.co.uk/newsround/66593022>.

PAIR DISCUSSION NO. 2

STUDENT B

You are going to read a news item.

You have to respond to the news and discuss it with a partner.

Your partner has also read the same news item.

*You have **5 minutes** to read the text and prepare for the discussion.*

*The discussion should take up to **5 minutes**.*

You are expected to:

- summarise the content / state the issue presented in the text (**Student A**);
- exchange opinions and / or emotions with the partner about the news; evaluate;
- make personal comment; relate the issue to your own experience or knowledge;
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PAIR DISCUSSION NO. 3

STUDENT A

You are going to read a news item.

You have to respond to the news and discuss it with a partner.

Your partner has also read the same news item.

*You have **5 minutes** to read the text and prepare for the discussion.*

*The discussion should take up to **5 minutes**.*

You are expected to:

- summarise the content / state the issue presented in the text (**Student A**);
- exchange opinions and / or emotions with the partner about the news; evaluate;
- make personal comment; relate the issue to your own experience or knowledge;
- summarise and conclude your discussion (**Student B**).

Germany has shut down its last three nuclear power plants



On April 15, 2023, Germany ceased electricity production from nuclear power plants, completing a planned shutdown started in 2011. The closures of Emsland, Isar II, and Neckarwestheim II were anticipated and mark a significant shift in the country's energy landscape. While some view this as a blow to nuclear energy supporters who consider it a clean, zero-carbon source, others applaud the move, citing worries about nuclear accidents and emphasising the country's dedication to increasing renewable energy.

In the face of global climate change issues, a team of scientists, which includes Nobel laureates, urgently appealed to maintain the operation of the reactors. However, the government, highlighting safety and the unmanageable risks of nuclear power, proceeded with the shutdown. The closures impact over 10 million households, but Germany aims to fill the energy gap with renewable sources by 2030. Critics argue that the decision increases greenhouse gas emissions, while proponents emphasise the benefits of renewable energy.

Despite the closure of nuclear power plants, certain aspects of the nuclear industry, such as fuel fabrication and decommissioning, will continue. Decommissioning involves securely shutting down and dismantling nuclear facilities at the end of their operational life, ensuring the proper disposal of radioactive materials and environmental safety.

Such a move reflects a broader global discussion on the role of nuclear energy in addressing climate change, with opinions divided on its usefulness and safety.

Based on <https://www.cnbc.com/2023/04/18/germany-shuts-down-last-nuclear-power-plants-some-scientists-aghast.html>.

PAIR DISCUSSION NO. 3

STUDENT B

You are going to read a news item.

You have to respond to the news and discuss it with a partner.

Your partner has also read the same news item.

*You have **5 minutes** to read the text and prepare for the discussion.*

*The discussion should take up to **5 minutes**.*

You are expected to:

- summarise the content / state the issue presented in the text (**Student A**);
- exchange opinions and / or emotions with the partner about the news; evaluate;
- make personal comment; relate the issue to your own experience or knowledge;
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PAIR DISCUSSION NO.4

STUDENT A

You are going to read a news item.

You have to respond to the news and discuss it with a partner.

Your partner has also read the same news item.

*You have **5 minutes** to read the text and prepare for the discussion.*

*The discussion should take up to **5 minutes**.*

You are expected to:

- summarise the content / state the issue presented in the text (**Student A**);
- exchange opinions and / or emotions with the partner about the news; evaluate;
- make personal comment; relate the issue to your own experience or knowledge;
- summarise and conclude your discussion (**Student B**).

Denmark's King Frederik X takes the throne after abdication of Queen



Denmark's King Frederik X has taken the throne after the abdication of his mother Queen Margrethe II, looking emotional as he waved to the thousands who gathered in the capital Copenhagen to witness the start of a new era.

For many in Denmark, his mother Margrethe was the only monarch they had ever known. But her shock abdication, after more than five decades on the throne, paved the way for her son, the former crown prince, to succeed her.

The handover took place at a cabinet meeting at Christiansborg Palace in the capital, when Margrethe signed a declaration of her abdication, officially transferring the crown to Frederik.

Large crowds gathered in the streets, despite frigid weather, the occasional burst of song riding across the sea of people as they awaited the historic moment. Danish Prime Minister Mette Frederiksen then publicly proclaimed the King's accession from the balcony of the palace – a tradition in place since the constitution of 1849. Frederik followed with a short speech, before being joined by his Australian-born wife Queen Mary and their four children.

Britain's King Charles III – who had his coronation last summer – was among the first to congratulate the new king and queen. "I look forward to working with you on ensuring that the enduring bond between our countries, and our families, remains strong, and to working together with you on issues which matter so much for our countries and the wider world," he said in his message.

Based on <https://edition.cnn.com/2024/01/14/europe/denmark-royals-frederik-mary-proclamation-king-queen-intl/index.html>.

PAIR DISCUSSION NO.4

STUDENT B

You are going to read a news item.

You have to respond to the news and discuss it with a partner.

Your partner has also read the same news item.

*You have **5 minutes** to read the text and prepare for the discussion.*

*The discussion should take up to **5 minutes**.*

You are expected to:

- summarise the content / state the issue presented in the text (**Student A**);
- exchange opinions and / or emotions with the partner about the news; evaluate;
- make personal comment; relate the issue to your own experience or knowledge;
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Based on <https://edition.cnn.com/2024/01/14/europe/denmark-royals-frederik-mary-proclamation-king-queen-intl/index.html>.

PAIR DISCUSSION NO.5

STUDENT A

You are going to read a news item.

You have to respond to the news and discuss it with a partner.

Your partner has also read the same news item.

*You have **5 minutes** to read the text and prepare for the discussion.*

*The discussion should take up to **5 minutes**.*

You are expected to:

- summarise the content / state the issue presented in the text (**Student A**);
- exchange opinions and / or emotions with the partner about the news; evaluate;
- make personal comment; relate the issue to your own experience or knowledge;
- summarise and conclude your discussion (**Student B**).

The most sustainable architectural projects in the world



In the face of the climate crisis, the magazine “Architectural Digest” in its international issue features a number of innovative projects offering solutions to high carbon emissions, energy consumption and wasteful construction materials.

One of the notable buildings is the Reggio School in Madrid. 80% of the school's outer walls are covered in cork, a natural material that supports various living things. The uneven surface of the cork is designed to let organic materials gather, turning the building's outer covering into a home for many kinds of tiny living things like fungi, plants, and animals. “The building will live as a constant transformation,” says Maite Sebastia, AD head of editorial content in Spain.

The Plus, a new factory for Norwegian furniture brand “Vestre”, another impressive project, has become the first industrial building to receive an outstanding rating for being able to release 50% less greenhouse gasses than comparable facilities. The building has four wings which stretch out into a 300-acre public park. The purpose of this design is to attract and encourage both employees and visitors to appreciate and experience nature.

“It’s an impossible task to capture the latest sustainability news in a single article,” says AD global features director, Sam Cochran. “The takeaway, ultimately, is that every decision we make has a significant impact. In other words, such decisions extend beyond personal consequences and have broader implications for the people and environment around us.”

Based on <https://edition.cnn.com/style/article/sustainable-architecture-architectural-digest/index.html>.

PAIR DISCUSSION NO.5

STUDENT B

You are going to read a news item.

You have to respond to the news and discuss it with a partner.

Your partner has also read the same news item.

*You have **5 minutes** to read the text and prepare for the discussion.*

*The discussion should take up to **5 minutes**.*

You are expected to:

- *summarise the content / state the issue presented in the text (**Student A**);*
- *exchange opinions and / or emotions with the partner about the news; evaluate;*
- *make personal comment; relate the issue to your own experience or knowledge;*
- *summarise and conclude your discussion (**Student B**).*

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PAIR DISCUSSION NO.6

STUDENT A

You are going to read a news item.

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Your partner has also read the same news item.

*You have **5 minutes** to read the text and prepare for the discussion.*

*The discussion should take up to **5 minutes**.*

You are expected to:

- summarise the content / state the issue presented in the text (**Student A**);
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- summarise and conclude your discussion (**Student B**).

Brain implants help paralysed man to walk again



Gert-Jan Oskam, a 40-year-old Dutch man, was paralysed in a cycling accident 12 years ago. Now he is able to walk simply by thinking about it thanks to electronic brain implants, which wirelessly transmit his thoughts to his legs and feet via a second implant on his spine.

"I feel like a toddler, learning to walk again," Mr Oskam told the BBC. "But now I can stand up and meet with my friend. It's a pleasure that many people don't realise."

The development published in the journal Nature was led by Swiss researchers. Prof. Jocelyne Bloch at Lausanne University is the neurosurgeon who carried out the delicate surgery to insert the implants. The brain implants build on prof. Courtine's earlier work, when only the spinal implant was used to restore movement. The spinal implant amplified weak signals from the brain to the damaged part of the spinal column and was boosted further by pre-programmed signals from a computer. The researchers stressed that the system was at a basic research stage and was many years away from being available to paralysed patients. But they told BBC News that it was the team's aim to get it out of the lab and into the clinic as soon as possible.

"The important thing for us is not just to have a scientific trial, but eventually to give more access to more people with spinal cord injuries who are used to hearing from doctors that they have to get used to the fact that they will never move again," says prof. Bloch.

Based on <https://www.bbc.com/news/science-environment-65689580>.

PAIR DISCUSSION NO.6

STUDENT B

You are going to read a news item.

You have to respond to the news and discuss it with a partner.

Your partner has also read the same news item.

*You have **5 minutes** to read the text and prepare for the discussion.*

*The discussion should take up to **5 minutes**.*

You are expected to:

- summarise the content / state the issue presented in the text (**Student A**);
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