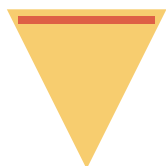
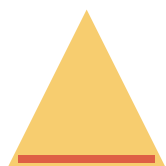


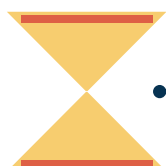
The red line indicates the location of the main idea.



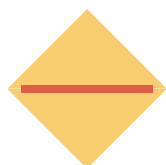
The widest part of the triangle indicates the location of the most important information, the main idea, and the details follow as it decreases in size. This is a deductive writing style. Close to 90% of paragraphs in academic text books share this pattern.



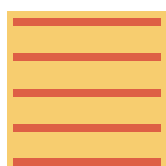
The smallest part of the triangle begins with details, explanations and examples. The bottom of the triangle contains a last sentence that ties them all together like a summary and finally states the main idea. This is an inductive writing style. This is the second most common paragraph structure.



The widest part of the triangle indicates the main idea and then it decreases in size as it goes into further details. The details continue and as the second triangle grows we see the main idea restated at the end. Sometimes this pattern is used when the main idea is complex and needs to be broken into two parts.



This diamond pattern begins and ends a paragraph with details and examples. Often a question is posed at the beginning. The main idea is stated near the middle, at the widest part of the diamond and typically uses a transitional sentence. "But" or "however" may start the main idea or topic sentence.



*While the four previous patterns are typically found in textbooks, this final pattern is often found in fiction, poetry, and methods or procedures. All ideas are presented as equally important and related, but **the main idea is not stated**. However, this is an **implied main idea**. Look for clues and guess what the author is writing and then create and write your own main idea.*

Find the main idea in each paragraph. Circle the paragraph style and write the main idea in the space provided.

Other countries are striving to put legislation in place to regulate human biotechnology. One of the oldest legislative arrangements is that of Britain, which established the Human Fertilization and Embryology Agency more than 10 years ago to regulate experimentation with embryos.



The first targets of genetic therapy will be relatively simple single gene disorders like Huntington's disease or Tay Sachs disease. Many geneticists believe that the genetic causality of higher order behaviors and characteristics such as personality, intelligence or even height is so complex that we will never be able to manipulate it. But this is precisely where the danger lies: We will be constantly tempted to think that we understand this causality better than we really do and will face even nastier surprises than when we tried to conquer the non-human natural environment. In this case, the victim of a failed experiment will not be an ecosystem, but a human child whose parents, seeking to give her greater intelligence, will saddle her with a greater propensity for cancer, or prolonged debility in old age, or some other completely unexpected side effect that may emerge only after the experiments have passed from the scene.



If there is one thing that the environmental movement has taught us in the past couple of generations, it is that nature is a complex whole. The different parts of an ecosystem are mutually interdependent in ways that we often fail to understand; human efforts to manipulate certain parts of it will produce a host of unintended consequences that will come back to haunt us.



WASHINGTON -- People who have not been paying close attention to the debate on human biotechnology might think that the chief issue is abortion, since the most outspoken opponents of cloning to date have been right-to-lifers who oppose the destruction of embryos. But there are important reasons why cloning and the genetic technologies that will follow upon it should be of concern to all people, religious or secular, and above all to those who are concerned with protecting the natural environment. For the attempt to master human nature through biotechnology will be even more dangerous and consequential than the efforts of industrial societies to master non-human nature thorough earlier generations of technology.



Anyone who feels strongly about defending non-human nature from technological manipulation should feel equally strongly about defending human nature as well. In Europe, the environmental movement is more firmly opposed to biotechnology than is its counterpart in the United States and has managed to stop the proliferation of genetically modified foods there dead in its tracks. But genetically modified organisms are ultimately only an opening shot in a longer revolution and far less consequential than the human biotechnologies now coming on line. Some people believe that, given the depredations of humans on non-human nature, the latter deserves more vigilant protection. But in the end, they are part of the same whole. Altering the genes of plants affects only what we eat and grow; altering our own genes affects who we are. Nature -- both the natural environment around us and our own -- deserves an approach based on respect and stewardship, not domination and mastery.

