



Using other's opinions Giving your own opinion

Lesson 4

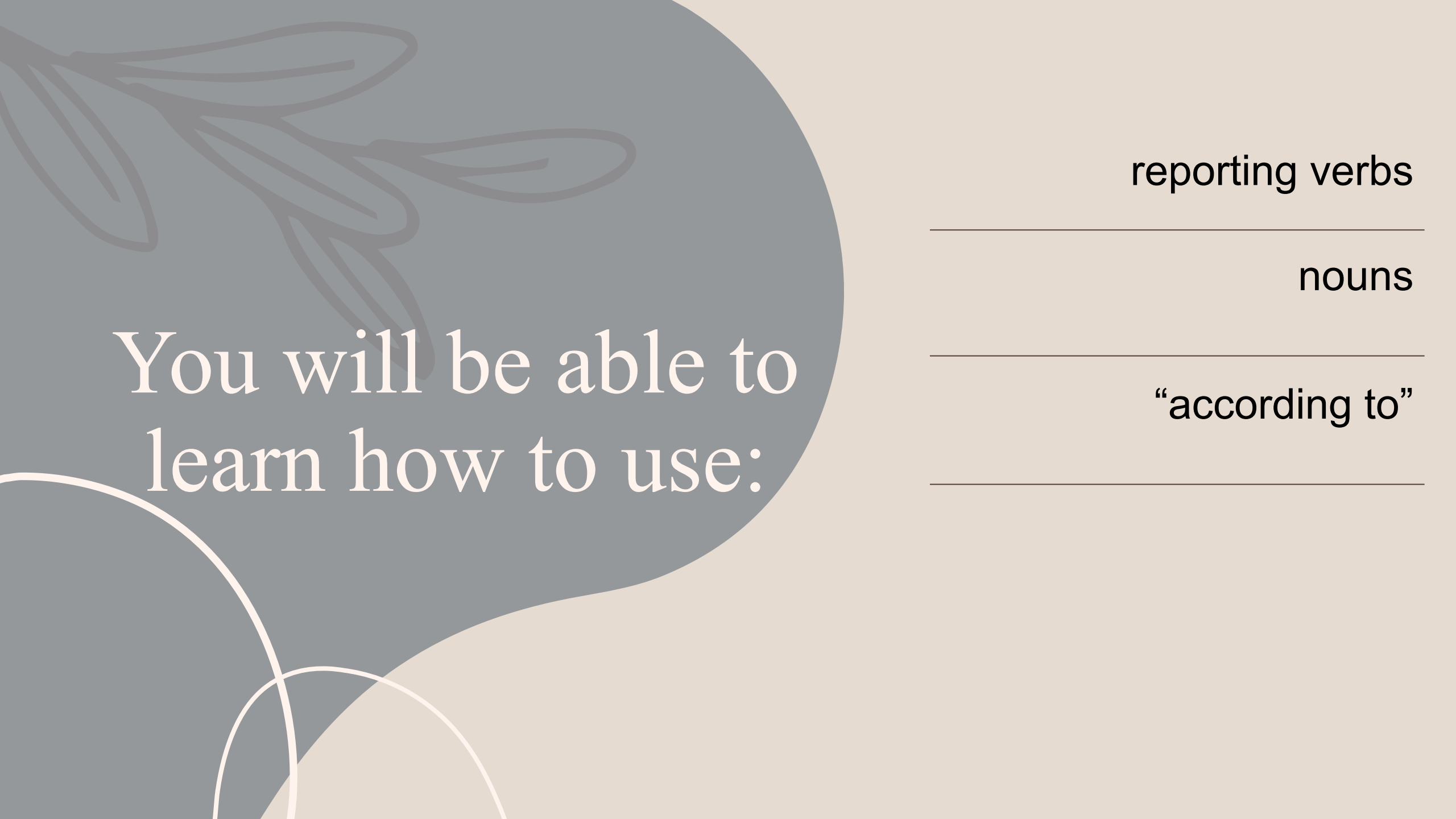
Week 4

CI

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Using other's opinions

Part I



You will be able to
learn how to use:

reporting verbs

nouns

“according to”

Introduction

The views of other writers can be used as evidence in your writing. You can paraphrase, or you can make a direct quotation. As a rule, quotations should be short and not overused within your writing. Your own university or college should be able to give you a style guide on the technical aspects of citation (different systems are preferred in different institutions), but there are some words and phrases for introducing the opinion of another author.



USING REPORTING VERBS SUCH AS COMMENT, POINT OUT, OBSERVE, STATE, SUGGEST, WRITE

As (name) + reporting verb

(Name) + reporting verb + that...

- As Grover observed (2007), 'Several categories of question can be distinguished in market research questionnaires' (p. 45).

- Grover points out that several categories ...

Note that verbs such as point out, observe, etc. can be used in the past, present and the present perfect tense.

Using nouns such as *view* or *opinion*

The view/opinion of (Brown) is that...

(Brown) 's opinion/view is that...

In (Brown) 's view/opinion,...

- Steele's **view is that** (2004), 'The popular reaction to a controversial new building often turns quite quickly from dislike to a kind of affectionate respect' (p. 62).



Using according to (Brown)

- According to Wooller (n.d), 'The temperature at which a material will ignite is, of course, of primary concern in the construction industry' (p. 78).

Test yourself! Reorder the words in brackets to make correct sentences. Add punctuation where necessary

1) (ESCHER ACCORDING TO) IT SHOULD BE POSSIBLE TO STABILIZE THIS CHEMICAL REACTION FOR COMMERCIAL EXPLOITATION.

2) (HAS OUT THAT STEVENS POINTED) MEXICAN POLITICS ARE LITTLE UNDERSTOOD OUTSIDE THE REGION.

3) (MAINTAINS NIKURA AS) SOME SPECIES OF INSECT MAY DIE OUT BEFORE THEY HAVE EVEN BEEN RECORDED.

4) (THAT BOSTOCK'S IS VIEW) CRIME STATISTICS ARE FREQUENTLY MANIPULATED TO SUPPORT POLITICAL ARGUMENTS.

5) (OPINION METSTROM'S IN) CORPORATE LAWSUITS MAY HAVE NO OTHER PURPOSE THAN TO DELAY COMPETITOR LAUNCHES.

ANSWERS

6.3

- 1 According to Escher, it should be possible
- 2 Stevens has pointed out that Mexican politics
- 3 As Nikura maintains, some species of insect
- 4 Bostock's view is that crime statistics
- 5 In Metstrom's opinion, corporate lawsuits

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Giving your
own opinion

In writing

If you do not give a reference for an idea, the reader will normally understand that it is your view. There is therefore little need in academic writing to use expressions such as in my opinion or I think. If you want to use a phrase, you could consider expressions such as:

It is likely/probable that...

It seems plausible that...

The evidence indicates/suggests that...

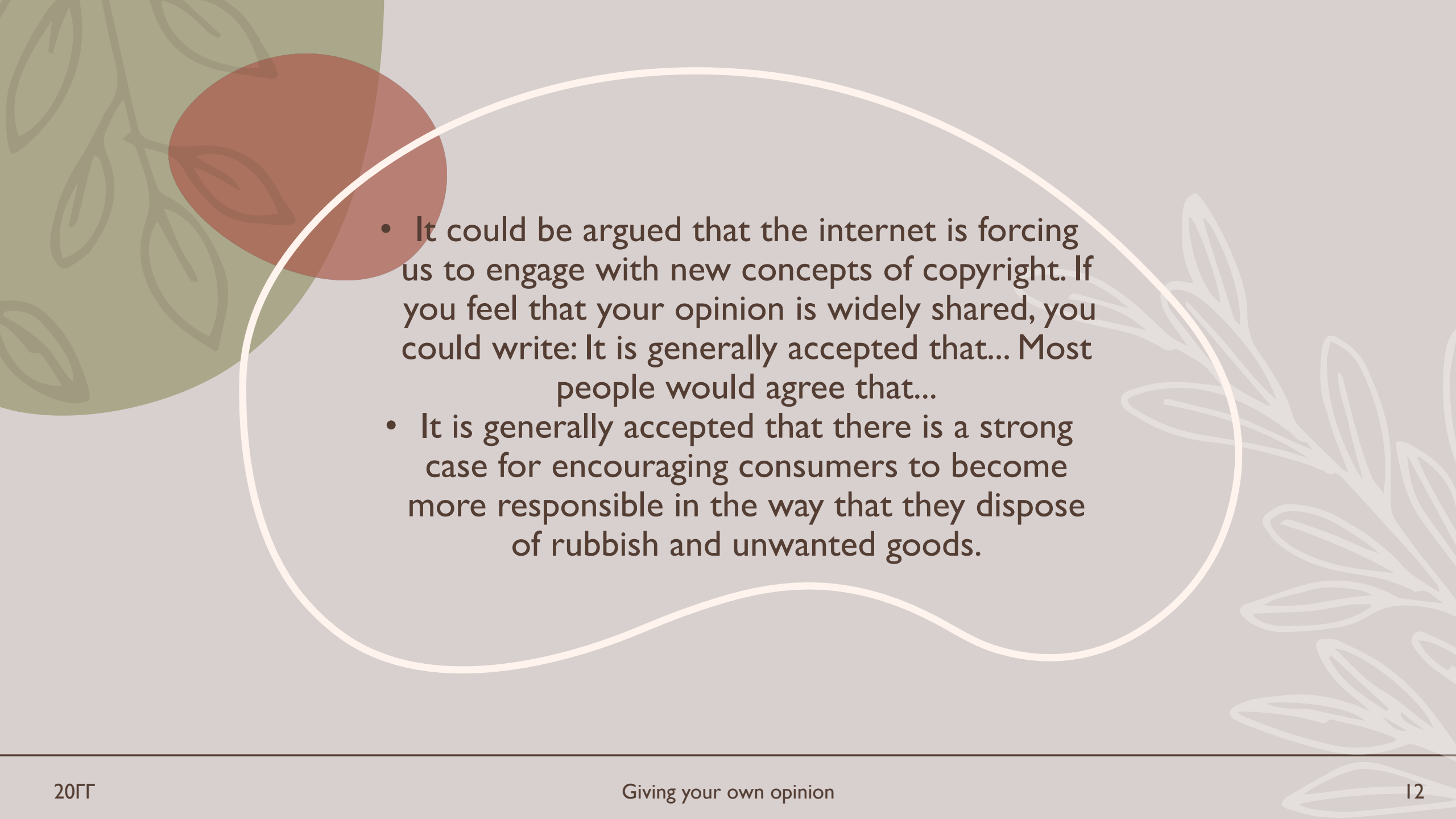
It can/could (in fact) be argued that...

One possible view is that...

On balance, it seems that...

One of the main arguments in favour of (a change in the law) is ...



- 
- It could be argued that the internet is forcing us to engage with new concepts of copyright. If you feel that your opinion is widely shared, you could write: It is generally accepted that... Most people would agree that...
 - It is generally accepted that there is a strong case for encouraging consumers to become more responsible in the way that they dispose of rubbish and unwanted goods.

In speaking

- Opinions in seminars, tutorials, and presentations are expressed in a less formal style. Here is some language that you might find useful, followed by a short dialogue featuring some of the phrases

- Giving an opinion

I think...

I feel that...

I'd say that...

It seems to me that...

What I think/believe is ...

- Giving an opinion more emphatically

It seems obvious to me that...

As far as I'm concerned...

- Giving an opinion more formally

I believe...

I take the view that...

It is my view that..

- Agreeing

I think you're right.

That's right/true.

I think so, too.

I agree.

- Agreeing more emphatically
(That's) my view, exactly.

(That's) absolutely right/true.
That's exactly what I think.

- Disagreeing

Yes, but (on the other hand) ...

I see what you mean, but...

I agree (with you) to some extent, but... Well, you may have a point, but...

But what about the fact that... ?

Are you sure? That may be so, but...

- Disagreeing more emphatically

○ I disagree.

- In my view,... I can't agree with that. In my view,... I don't agree, I'm afraid. In my view,...

For instance ...

Tutor: *Have you any ideas about the kind of business you'd like to set up for your project?*

Student A: *Well, I think we should invent and manufacture a new product. A chair or something.*

Student B: *Are you sure? I mean, it gets complicated if we have to, you know, create a factory ...*

Student C: *I agree. It would take up a lot of time.*

Tutor: *OK. Well, what about the service sector? Any ideas there?*

Student B: *An online ticket agency? For festivals and shows and things.*

Student A: *Yes, but there are so many already.*

Student C: *That's right. We'd have a real problem finding a gap, or a USP.*

Tutor: *That may be so, but do any of you use these sites regularly?*

Student B: *I do, and some of them are terrible.*

Student C: *My view, exactly. They're really frustrating.*

Tutor: *Well, that's a starting point then. What normally goes wrong when you use them? ...*

- Test yourself!
Complete each sentence with the correct form of one of the verbs in the box.

indicate may agree concern
seem believe

- 1 As far as I'm the UK needs to ask itself why it locks so many of its citizens up.
- 2 Most people would that technological innovation is the key to long-term manufacturing success.
- 3 On balance, it *seems* that there is a desire in the general public to see the benefits system reformed.
- 4 Well, you have a point, but what would a group live on if all its music could be downloaded for free?
- 5 What I *notes* is that the National Health Service would actually benefit from more competition.
- 6 The evidence that molecular water exists across the surface of the moon.

ANSWERS

6.4

1 concerned

2 agree

3 seems

4 may

5 believe

6 indicates



Please, check your
knowledge in Teams!