

**1. Q: Which of the above statement are you more likely to agree on? Why??**

Sentence A

Driving at night is dangerous than driving in the day, and people will have an accident.

Sentence B

It is possible that driving at night is somewhat more dangerous than driving in the day, and a good number of people could have an accident if they don't pay attention to the road and driving conditions.

**Sentence B sounds more persuasive as it is less absolute and forceful.**

**2. Q: Do you know the definition of hedging?**

Hedging is a way to refine the shape of your argument---making it less definite, strict, absolute and forceful, thereby making it easier for the reader to accept and believe.

**3. Q: What are the hedges in the sentence that make it more convincing? Underline them**

- a. Smog probably is the cause of lung diseases in modern society.
- b. Researchers in future generations might study us and wonder why we developed plastics.
- c. A majority of the visitors to foreign lands feel free to pollute.
- d. There is a tendency to think that polluters have no respect for the environment.
- e. We will destroy ourselves by our waste products if they are produced at the current rate.
- f. Human civilization ought to see a decline as demands for fossil fuels increases.
- g. Humans will need to invent new ways of breathing unless we find a way to stop air pollution as soon as possible.
- h. It is understood that polluting water on our planet is like polluting yourself.
- i. Pollution threatens a significant portion of life in the biosphere nowadays.
- j. Urban air pollution causes the lung cancer of city residents to some extent.

**4. Q: Could you find something in common about the hedges and divide them into different groups?**

Types	Examples
Adverbs	a little, often, rather, slightly, generally, possibly, reasonably, somewhat, moderately, probably, relatively, to some extent, etc.
Modal verbs	can, could, may, might, ought to, should, etc.
Modifiers	a (good/high) number of, many, much, several, a (significant) portion of, most, some, few, little, a majority/minority of, etc.
Sentence patterns	It seems that... Many people believe that, There is a tendency that.. It is understood that... It is possible that...

	It might be the case that... etc.
Conditionals	If... Unless... Once... When... etc.

### 5. Q: What are the hedges used by the author in the given text?

How much anxiety is too much?

Here are some of the signs of excess anxiety.

- You feel anxious, worried or anxious for no reason at all. Normally, teens feel anxiety because of something specific --- like taking a test or going out on a date. But if there's no obvious reason for your feelings, your anxiety level may be too high.
- You worry too much about everyday events or activities. Some worries are normal. But if you're constantly worrying about things that are out of the ordinary, or if you worry so much about those events that you avoid them, you anxiety level is too high.
- You continually check whether you did something right. While it's normal to check something you did to make sure it's right, continuing to check it again is a sign that you have way too much anxiety.
- You're so panicky that you are unable to function in certain situations --- like taking tests or socializing with friends.

### 6. Q: Where can we add hedges in the given text? Which of the five common approaches best fit our need in rewriting?

Students might rewrite in their own way as long as their rewriting is in accordance with the 5 approaches listed above. A possible version is as follows.

How much anxiety is too much?

Here are some of the signs of excess anxiety.

- You feel anxious, worried or anxious for no reason at all. Normally, teens **might** feel anxiety **probably** because of something specific --- like taking a test or going out on a date. But if there's no obvious reason for your feelings, your anxiety level may be too high.
- You worry too much about **some of** your everyday events or activities. Some worries are normal. But if you're constantly worrying about things that are out of the ordinary, or if you worry so much about those events that you avoid them, **it might be the case that** you anxiety level is too high.
- You continually check whether you did something right **when there is no need to do so**. While it's **somewhat** normal to check something you did to make sure it's right, continuing to check it again **could be** a sign that you have way too much anxiety.
- You're **to some degree** panicky that you are unable to function in certain situations --- like taking tests or socializing with friends.