

Make an outline like this:

Paragraph Question: Why are food prices so expensive in the north?

Evidence 1: *Transportation costs* (1)

- *Food has to be trucked north* (2)
- *Gas and refrigeration costs extra* (3)
- *Most produce from California and Mexico* (4)

Evidence 2: *Weather* (5)

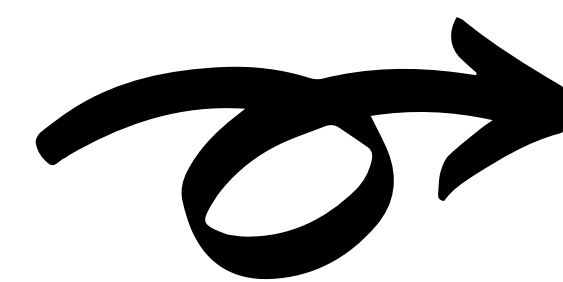
- *Much of the north experiences months of sub-zero temperatures* (6)
- *This makes growing food difficult or impossible* (7)
- *Temperatures can dip below zero from October to April* (8)

Evidence 3: *Low population* (9)

- *Law of supply and demand* (10)
- *Fewer shoppers equals less demand* (11)
- *Grocery stores have to raise prices to make a profit* (12)

Thesis Sentence (Topic Sentence):

Food prices are expensive in the north because of transportation costs, the cold weather, and the low population levels.



Piece the parts together:

Food prices are expensive in the north because of transportation costs (1), the cold weather (5), and the low population levels (9). It costs a lot of money to truck food far into the north due to the snowy, dangerous conditions (2). Gas prices, as well as the cost of keeping food cool, drive up the price of food in the north (3). Most produce has to be shipped from as far south as California, or even Mexico (4). Cold temperatures limit where plants can grow and how much can be produced (6). Due to this, as well as fewer sunny months to grow food, prices are increased (7). Sometimes, the temperatures can dip below zero from October to April (8). "Supply and Demand" states that if there is a high demand for something in low supply, such as food in the north, people will be willing to pay more (10). As a result of the low population in the north, grocery stores experience fewer shoppers than stores in southern Canada (11). In order for these grocery stores to make a profit, they must increase their prices (12). Since food is in high demand, the shoppers are willing to pay more for their food than Canadians in the south. Due to the high shipping costs, a shorter growing season, and a smaller population, food prices are expensive in the north.

***Note: The last sentence is basically restating the topic sentence.**