Here is a paragraph from a paper on deforestation. The thesis is that the most important impact of deforestation is the release of greenhouse gases, which contributes to global warming. This paragraph addresses one of the other impacts: loss of biodiversity.

How would you revise this paragraph to make it more organized and coherent (i.e. to make it flow better)? Specifically, what elements in the paragraph would you **re-arrange** (if any), and what **transitional devices** (tags, pronoun reference, repetition, parallelism) would you use to connect ideas within the paragraph?

Here is the paragraph as originally written. Below that is the revision we did in class.

Biodiversity is the degree or variation of living species in an ecosystem. Plants were the first source for medicine and still provide key ingredients for pharmaceuticals today. “Plants also perform essential *ecosystem services*. Through their productivity, plants provide the energy that a vast majority of all life depends on to survive. The hydrologic cycle, climatic patterns, oxygen production, nutrient turnover, and all other processes vital to ecosystem function are regulated by plants” (Gibson and Gibson). Deforestation leads to destruction of biodiversity and the extinction of plants and animals. It’s estimated that 4,000 plants and animals become extinct every year due to deforestation, most of which have never been discovered. Medical researchers continue to make new discoveries every year from plants from the tropical rainforests. These plants could contain the cure for cancer, or some kind of clue that could lead to a scientific discovery. One thing is certain: if we let deforestation continue uncontrolled, countless species will be lost forever in the deforestation process (Zuckerman 19). Many biologists argue that loss of biodiversity is the most important impact of deforestation.
animals. It’s estimated that 4,000 plants and animals become extinct every year due to deforestation, most of which have never been discovered. One thing is certain: if we let deforestation continue uncontrolled, countless species will be lost forever in the deforestation process (Zuckerman 19). Biodiversity is the degree or variation of living species in an ecosystem. Plants are a key element of forest biodiversity. They “perform essential ecosystem services. Through their productivity, plants provide the energy that a vast majority of all life depends on to survive. The hydrologic cycle, climatic patterns, oxygen production, nutrient turnover, and all other processes vital to ecosystem function are regulated by plants” (Gibson and Gibson). Furthermore, plants were the first source for medicine and still provide key ingredients for pharmaceuticals today. “Plants also perform essential ecosystem services. Through their productivity, plants provide the energy that a vast majority of all life depends on to survive. The hydrologic cycle, climatic patterns, oxygen production, nutrient turnover, and all other processes vital to ecosystem function are regulated by plants” (Gibson and Gibson). Deforestation leads to destruction of biodiversity and the extinction of plants and animals. It’s estimated that 4,000 plants and animals become extinct every year due to deforestation, most of which have never been discovered. Medical researchers continue to make new discoveries every year from plants from the tropical rainforests. These plants could contain the cure for cancer, or some kind of clue that could lead to a scientific discovery. One thing is certain: if we let deforestation continue uncontrolled, countless species will be lost forever in the deforestation process (Zuckerman 19). Many biologists argue that loss of biodiversity is the most important impact of deforestation.