



GRADE 7
Writing

Administered March 2017

RELEASED

WRITING

WRITTEN COMPOSITION

WRITTEN COMPOSITION: Expository

READ the information in the box below.

In 1961, President John F. Kennedy said that the United States should set a goal of landing an American on the moon by 1970. After much hard work and preparation, two Americans landed on the moon in 1969.

THINK carefully about the following statement.

Some people think it is easier to accomplish something if they set a goal in advance.

WRITE an essay explaining why setting a goal is important.

Be sure to —

- clearly state your controlling idea
- organize and develop your explanation effectively
- choose your words carefully
- use correct spelling, capitalization, punctuation, grammar, and sentences

USE THIS PREWRITING PAGE TO
PLAN YOUR COMPOSITION.

MAKE SURE THAT YOU WRITE YOUR COMPOSITION ON
THE LINED PAGE IN THE ANSWER DOCUMENT.

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REVISING AND EDITING

Read the selection and choose the best answer to each question. Then fill in the answer on your answer document.

Isaiah has written the following narrative about a time when he briefly questioned a decision. Read Isaiah's paper and look for any revisions he should make. Then answer the questions that follow.



Have I Made a Mistake?

(1) My sweaty toes are clenched inside my black-and-white tennis shoes. (2) I glance at my hands and notice that my knuckles have turned white. (3) I decide that perhaps I should loosen my grip on the heavy bar that's pressing against my chest. (4) Unfortunately, my hands aren't interested in what my brain is telling them to do. (5) I consider for a moment whether getting on the Viper was a good life choice, but the sudden forward movement of the roller coaster makes me realize that it's too late for second-guessing.

(6) I look ahead to see a blurry tunnel approaching at what must be about 60 miles an hour. (7) I wonder briefly what it would feel like to hit the roof of the tunnel at this speed and decide that it's probably better not to think of such things.

(8) A shrill scream snaps me out of my daydream from the car behind me and returns my focus to the world around me. (9) All I can hear is the whoosh of the wind, the thunder of the car's metallic wheels, and shrieks of my fellow passengers that are piercing. (10) I'm certain now that I have indeed made a poor life choice, but the ride isn't over, so I must just hold on and hope to survive.

(11) The pressure of the wind on my face and eyes becomes extreme. (12) I feel as though I might get sick, but I try hard to overcome my nausea. (13) As the Viper continues to twist and turn, I hang on for dear life. (14) When I'm sure I can't take another second of this "adventure," the roller coaster bursts out of the tunnel and up into the air. (15) The car begins looping upward, and the feeling of being upside down suddenly feels liberating. (16) I look down and notice all the park attractions and all the people having fun. (17) A feeling of exhilaration comes over me. (18) At that moment I no longer regret taking a chance on this adventure. (19) As the car turns upright and glides to a halt in the station, I know exactly what I'm going to do next. (20) Do it again.

1 What is the most effective revision to make in sentence 4?

- A Unfortunately, my hands aren't interested, they don't care what my brain is telling them to do.
 - B Unfortunately, my hands aren't interested in what my brain is telling my hands to do.
 - C Unfortunately, my hands and my brain aren't interested in what it is telling them to do.
 - D No revision is needed in this sentence.
-

2 What is the BEST way to revise sentence 8?

- F A shrill scream snaps me out of my daydream, and from the car behind me, it returns my focus to the world around me.
 - G A shrill scream snaps me out of my daydream and returns my focus to the world around me, it came from the car behind me.
 - H A shrill scream from the car behind me snaps me out of my daydream and returns my focus to the world around me.
 - J A shrill scream snaps me out of my daydream from the car behind me, returning my focus to the world around me.
-

3 What is the BEST revision to make in sentence 9?

- A All I can hear is the whoosh of the wind, the thunder of the car's metallic wheels, and the piercing shrieks of my fellow passengers.
- B All I can hear is the whoosh of the wind and the thunder of the car's metallic wheels, I can also hear my fellow passengers who have piercing shrieks.
- C All I can hear is the whoosh of the wind and the thunder of the car's metallic wheels and my fellow passengers and their piercing shrieks.
- D All I can hear is the whoosh of the wind next to the thunder of the car's metallic wheels beside my fellow passengers who have piercing shrieks.

- 4 Isaiah would like to add some detail to support the idea he has presented in sentence 14. Which sentence could BEST follow and provide support for sentence 14?
- F I'm thinking that the ride will be over soon.
 - G It comes out of the tunnel really fast and heads straight up into the air.
 - H The light of a beautiful day is welcome but nearly blinding after the darkness of the tunnel.
 - J While I find adventure movies intriguing, this doesn't feel intriguing at all.
-

- 5 What is the most effective transition to add to the beginning of sentence 19?
- A For example
 - B To repeat
 - C On the other hand
 - D In fact
-

- 6 Isaiah's closing sentence is weak. Which of these sentences could replace sentence 20 and provide a more effective closing for this paper?
- F I'm going to get right back in line and ride the Viper again!
 - G There's no doubt in my mind as to what I will do now!
 - H Finally, I'm going to do it again.
 - J In closing, riding the Viper was an amazing experience.

Read the selection and choose the best answer to each question. Then fill in the answer on your answer document.

Ari would like to see a new program instituted at his school. He has written this paper to convince others that the program would be valuable in many ways. Read Ari's paper and look for the revisions he needs to make. Then answer the questions that follow.

Our School Needs a Citizenship Program

(1) The bell rings, the lockers slam, and the crowded hallways empty as kids and teachers fill the classrooms, ready to begin a new school day. (2) Students study math, science, history, literature, music, and art. (3) They write essays, take tests, do homework, and sports practices. (4) But should they do more? (5) Could school be a place where students are part of something bigger than just academics and activities? (6) The answer is yes. (7) Our school should join other schools and have great projects for kids.

(8) My former school took part in a citizenship program. (9) At the beginning of each semester, every homeroom class had to come up with a project that would benefit the entire school. (10) Throughout the semester students in the class worked together to complete the project.

(11) The projects students chose were as diverse as the classes that selected them. (12) One class chose to implement a recycling program in the cafeteria. (13) A second class had the highest scores on the midyear science exam. (14) Another class painted a beautiful mural on one of the walls in the school's entryway. (15) Our class took over the garden that had been planted near the front doors the previous year.

(16) This would be really good at our school. (17) Research shows that students who volunteer their time and talents feel better about themselves and make better grades in school. (18) Furthermore, the work



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performed by students saves the school district money because students provide the labor and local businesses often donate the materials. (19) Finally, students feel more connected to a campus that they have helped clean, beautify, and organize.

(20) A citizenship program is a great way to get them involved in making a school a more enjoyable place to learn. (21) At the end of the year, when they look back on all they have accomplished, they feel proud of both themselves and their school.

- 7 What is the most effective revision to make in sentence 3?
- A They write essays, take tests, and do homework while there are sports practices.
 - B They write essays, take tests, do homework, and attend sports practices.
 - C They write essays, take tests, and do homework, they also go to sports practices.
 - D Sentence 3 is written correctly in the paper.
-

- 8 Ari would like to revise sentence 7 so that it more clearly states the position he is taking in this paper. Which of the following could replace sentence 7 and BEST accomplish this goal?
- F Our school should join other schools in implementing a citizenship program that will require service projects within the school.
 - G School can be a place where students are part of something bigger than just academics, classrooms, and lunchrooms.
 - H We as a school can offer programs that help kids do amazing things with their lives today and add to their futures.
 - J In this paper I'll tell you how we can set some new goals and encourage kids in our school to be more responsible.

- 9 Ari has left an important detail out of the second paragraph (sentences 8–10).

At the end of the grading period, each student received a citizenship grade in addition to his or her academic grades.

Where is the BEST place to insert this sentence?

- A Before sentence 8
 - B After sentence 8
 - C After sentence 9
 - D After sentence 10
-

- 10 Ari has included an extraneous sentence in the third paragraph (sentences 11–15). Which sentence should be deleted from this paragraph?

- F Sentence 12
 - G Sentence 13
 - H Sentence 14
 - J Sentence 15
-

- 11 Which of the following can replace sentence 16 and serve as a more effective topic sentence for the fourth paragraph (sentences 16–19)?

- A A citizenship program at our school would offer many benefits.
- B This would be really cool at our school, too.
- C Everyone knows that kids who volunteer feel better about themselves.
- D Students can be involved in a variety of projects with their classmates.

12 The meaning of sentence 20 can be clarified by changing **them** to —

- F businesses
 - G programs
 - H students
 - J schools
-

13 Ari wants to close his paper with a call to action. Which of these sentences could be added after sentence 21 to accomplish this goal?

- A In closing, students will be proud of what they've done to improve their school and community.
- B A citizenship program is a valuable idea for helping people get things done that might not otherwise be done.
- C Let's give students at our school an opportunity to experience that pride by beginning a citizenship program here.
- D Clearly, the extra work is worth the effort for everyone who is involved in creating a citizenship program today.

Read the selection and choose the best answer to each question. Then fill in the answer on your answer document.

In the following paper Gabe hopes to persuade readers to have a more upbeat outlook on Mondays. Read Gabe's paper and look for any corrections he should make. When you finish, answer the questions that follow.



Happy Monday!

(1) When it comes to days of the week, Monday has a bad reputation. (2) I surveyed friends, and the results were overwhelming. (3) When asked which day of the week they like the least, 90 percent of my respondents chose Monday. (4) Not one person selected Monday as his or her favorite day. (5) Songwriters has even written lyrics about dreading Mondays. (6) In the 1960s a musical group had a hit titled "Monday, Monday." (7) They sang, "Every other day of the week is fine, yeah. (8) But whenever Monday comes, you can find me crying all of the time." (9) I don't agree with all these sentiments. (10) In fact, I think that Monday is actually the best day of the week.

(11) First of all, consider all the good things that happen on Mondays. (12) If you are a sports fan, you may get to watch *Monday Night Football* in the Fall. (13) Furthermore, quite a few legal holidays, including Presidents' Day, Memorial Day, Labor Day, and Columbus Day, they are celebrated on Mondays. (14) That

means that several times a year, a Monday provides a three-day weekend. (15) And according to consumer websites Monday is the best day to get a good deal on a car because there aren't as many people shopping on the first day of the workweek.

(16) Experts say that you can also get the best online deals on Mondays. (17) This is especially true for electronics, such as computers, TVs, and video games.

(18) To me, however, there's something even more important about Mondays. (19) Each Monday symbolizes a new beginning. (20) For example, last week I got behind on my homework, and had to spend the weekend catching up. (21) But as soon as Monday arrived, I had a clean slate. (22) Another week I forgot to do some of my chores, so I had to forfeit going to a movie with my friends. (23) Once Monday came, my parents gave me a fresh start. (24) I also love Mondays because we frequently start new lessons at school at the beginning of the week. (25) While last weeks topics may have been boring, Monday can bring a new book to read, experiment to conduct, or math concept to tackle.

(26) I realize that I was probably not going to convince everyone that Monday is the best day of the week, but hopefully I can encourage a few people to change their attitude. (27) The next time a Monday rolls around, think about all the good things that could happen and look forward to the day instead of dreading it. (28) There's no way to avoid Mondays, so join me in making the best of it. (29) Who knows? (30) You might even start liking the first day of the workweek.

Third party trademark *Monday Night Football*® was used in these testing materials.

- 14 What change needs to be made in sentence 5?
- F Change **has even written** to has even wrote
 - G Change **has even written** to have even written
 - H Change **has even written** to even writing
 - J No change needs to be made.
-

- 15 What change should be made in sentence 9?
- A Change **I** to And
 - B Insert a comma after **agree**
 - C Change **sentaments** to sentiments
 - D Make no change
-

- 16 How does sentence 12 need to be changed?
- F Change **are** to were
 - G Delete the comma
 - H Insert a comma after **Football**
 - J Change **Fall** to fall

17 What is the correct way to write sentence 13?

- A Furthermore, quite a few legal holidays are celebrated on Mondays. Including Presidents' Day, Memorial Day, Labor Day, and Columbus Day.
 - B Furthermore, quite a few legal holidays, including Presidents' Day, Memorial Day, Labor Day, and Columbus Day, are celebrated on Mondays.
 - C Furthermore, quite a few legal holidays, including Presidents' Day, Memorial Day, Labor Day, and Columbus Day. They are celebrated on Mondays.
 - D Sentence 13 is written correctly in the paper.
-

18 What change should be made in sentence 15?

- F Change **consumer** to consumer
 - G Insert a comma after **websites**
 - H Change **as many** to hardly as many
 - J Change **shopping** to shoping
-

19 What change should be made in sentence 20?

- A Change **example** to exampel
- B Change **got** to gotten
- C Delete the comma after **homework**
- D Change **had** to have

20 What change needs to be made in sentence 25?

- F Change **weeks** to week's
 - G Change **boring** to borring
 - H Change the first comma to a period
 - J Change **experiment** to experament
-

21 What change should be made in sentence 26?

- A Change **was** to am
 - B Delete the comma after **week**
 - C Change **their** to there
 - D Change **attitude** to atitude
-

22 What change should be made in sentence 28?

- F Change **There's** to There isn't
- G Change **me** to myself
- H Insert a comma after **me**
- J Change **it** to them

Read the selection below and choose the best answer to each question. Then fill in the answer on your answer document.

Crystal is interested in scuba diving and hopes to someday translate this interest into a career. She wrote this paper to tell about some of the job opportunities available for professional divers. Read Crystal's paper and look for any corrections she should make. Then answer the questions that follow.

Diving In

- (1) Many people associate scuba diving with glamorous tropical resorts. (2) They think of instructors who teach curious tourists to dive and underwater photographers who take pictures of elaborate coral reefs. (3) Some even assume that these kinds of jobs are all that professional scuba divers do, but that's not true. (4) Today there are a wide variety of careers that involved diving in not only oceans but also aquariums, rivers, lakes, ponds, and even water tanks.



- (5) Many zoos and aquariums have large underwater exhibits filled with beautiful aquatic plants and exotic marine life. (6) But among the plants and fish, there may also be a diver busily cleaning the inside of the giant tank. (7) Aquarium divers have other responsibilities, too. (8) They monitor the health of the aquarium inhabitants and take care of the plants. (9) They may also participate in some attraction activities, such as feeding sharks and swimming with dolphins. (10) Working at an aquarium is a dream job for some divers. (11) An employee at an aquarium in the Tampa Bay area commented, "I am able to indulge my passion for aquatic science while making a decent living and working with excellent people."

(12) Being a golf-ball diver is another interesting way to earn a living while scuba diving. (13) About 100 million golf balls are scooped out of golf course ponds every year. (14) Brett Parker, a professional golf-ball diver, regularly suits up, drives across a golf course, and sinks to the bottom of a murky pond. (15) When he surfaces, he usually has a heavy bag. (16) Filled with hundreds of golf balls that have mistakenly landed in the pond. (17) Parker then sells the balls to a company that cleans them and resells them to consumers. (18) On an average day Parker can collect as many as 3,000 golf balls.



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(19) There are also diving jobs that can involve some danger. (20) One of these is water-tower diving. (21) The water towers that supply our communities with drinking water requires regular maintenance. (22) The outsides of these tanks are manageable enough, but professional divers must be hired to inspect, clean, and maintain the insides of the tanks. (23) The divers have to climb more than 100 feet up a tower and then descend into very dark and often cold water. (24) And because the tanks are usually operating at the same time, the divers must be very careful when they are inside.

(25) If you're planning to pursue a career in diving someday you may want to stick to the more glamorous diving jobs. (26) However, it's good to know that there are other opportunities available. (27) As a professional diver, the choice will be yours!

23 How should sentence 2 be changed?

- A Change **They** to You
 - B Change **pictures** to picture's
 - C Change **elaberate** to elaborate
 - D Sentence 2 should not be changed.
-

24 What change needs to be made in sentence 4?

- F Change **variety** to vareity
 - G Change **that** to they
 - H Change **involved** to involve
 - J No change needs to be made in sentence 4.
-

25 What change should be made in sentence 6?

- A Delete the comma
- B Change **there** to their
- C Change **busily** to busily
- D No change should be made.

26 What is the correct way to write sentences 15 and 16?

- F When he surfaces, he usually has a heavy bag, it is filled with hundreds of golf balls that have mistakenly landed in the pond.
 - G When he surfaces, he usually has a heavy bag filled with hundreds of golf balls. That have mistakenly landed in the pond.
 - H When he surfaces, he usually has a heavy bag filled with hundreds of golf balls they have mistakenly landed in the pond.
 - J When he surfaces, he usually has a heavy bag filled with hundreds of golf balls that have mistakenly landed in the pond.
-

27 What change should be made in sentence 18?

- A Change **a** to an
 - B Change **average** to averege
 - C Change **can collect** to collecting
 - D No change should be made in sentence 18.
-

28 What change, if any, should be made in sentence 21?

- F Change **communities** to community's
- G Change **requires** to require
- H Change **maintenance** to maintanence
- J Make no change

29 How should sentence 24 be changed?

- A Change **are usually operating** to is usually operating
 - B Delete the comma
 - C Change **they** to you
 - D Sentence 24 should not be changed.
-

30 What change needs to be made in sentence 25?

- F Change **you're** to your
- G Insert a comma after **diving**
- H Insert a comma after **someday**
- J Change **you may want to** to and may want to



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