

2021 STAAR Grade 7 Writing Rationales

Item#	Rationale	
1	Option B is correct	A transition is a word, phrase, or sentence that connects topics or ideas. Adding this sentence effectively supports the ideas in the introductory paragraph because it provides a transition between sentences 3 and 4, effectively introducing another activity that some visitors can choose to experience at the museum.
	Option A is incorrect	This revision is ineffective because the writer adds redundant or unnecessary wording ("children and their parents," "climb all around," and "St. Louis, Missouri") without offering any additional support to the introductory paragraph.
	Option C is incorrect	The idea presented in this sentence is not logically connected to the ideas in sentences 3 and 4, resulting in an ineffective introduction.
	Option D is incorrect	The description of the Ferris wheel is an unnecessary detail that repeats information presented in sentence 3.

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2	Option J is correct	Deleting sentence 19 removes an extraneous detail since the writer’s desire “to see this place one day” is irrelevant to the repurposed building materials used to construct the museum, which is the focus of the paragraph.
	Option F is incorrect	Sentence 13 is important because it includes information about the materials used to construct the museum.
	Option G is incorrect	Sentence 14 is important because it includes information about the materials used to construct a specific part of the museum.
	Option H is incorrect	Sentence 18 is not extraneous because it is included to emphasize the focus of the paragraph.

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3	Option A is correct	Moving "Cassilly welded together" to the beginning of the main clause and removing "are what" from the sentence eliminates the awkward phrasing and improves the flow of the sentence.
	Option B is incorrect	Replacing "of" with "and" incorrectly changes the meaning in the sentence by suggesting that Cassilly welded two different objects, "chutes and old cement mixers."
	Option C is incorrect	Changing the word order in this way creates awkward phrasing, and it is not an accurate revision because the connection to the slides is omitted.
	Option D is incorrect	Changing the word order in this way skews the meaning of the sentence by inaccurately suggesting that Cassilly used old cement mixers to weld chutes together.

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4	Option H is correct	Changing "they" to "visitors" clarifies who was delighted about the museum opening.
	Option F is incorrect	Changing "the museum" to "it" results in a sentence that is even more unclear.
	Option G is incorrect	Changing "opened" to "began" results in an unclear sentence because it does not make sense.
	Option J is incorrect	This change creates a sentence that means the same thing and fails to clarify who was delighted about the museum opening.

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5	Option A is correct	A transition is a word, phrase, or sentence that connects topics or ideas. Replacing sentence 28 with this sentence effectively transitions from the idea that the museum offers playscapes and connects it to the idea that the museum “also has some unique displays” for people to enjoy.
	Option B is incorrect	Use of this sentence does not improve the transition because the phrase “other things” is vague, and it is not necessary to state that the things are “inside the museum.”
	Option C is incorrect	Use of this sentence does not improve the transition because it includes an irrelevant detail about the playscapes that does not connect the ideas between the fourth and fifth paragraphs.
	Option D is incorrect	Use of this sentence is not an effective transition because it lacks specificity.

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Item#	Rationale	
6	Option G is correct	Parallelism occurs when two or more phrases are written in a way that maintains a consistent structure of grammar. Changing “add” to “adding” improves the sentence because it corrects the verb tense error and brings the verb phrases into parallel grammatical structure.
	Option F is incorrect	Changing “add” to “added” inappropriately switches the verb tense and results in awkward sentence structure that lacks parallelism.
	Option H is incorrect	Revising the sentence in this way switches “adjusting” to the wrong verb tense and fails to correct the parallel verb tense of “add.” The revision results in an awkwardly constructed sentence.
	Option J is incorrect	This revision results in awkward sentence structure that lacks parallelism and clarity.

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Item#	Rationale	
7	Option B is correct	A controlling idea is a statement that is used to summarize the main point of a piece of writing. The ideas presented in this sentence are effectively used to summarize the important information about butterflies in this paper.
	Option A is incorrect	Adding this sentence repeats information and fails to establish a controlling idea.
	Option C is incorrect	The description of a butterfly's wings is an unnecessary detail that fails to summarize the main point of the paper.
	Option D is incorrect	Adding this sentence would introduce extraneous information that is irrelevant to the ideas presented in the paper.

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8	Option J is correct	Details about how basking affects butterflies are included in this sentence, explaining the purpose of basking, which is discussed in sentences 7 and 8.
	Option F is incorrect	Adding this sentence at the beginning of the paragraph would present the ideas out of logical order and would add confusion by introducing a term that is not discussed until sentence 7.
	Option G is incorrect	Placing this sentence after sentence 3 would present the ideas out of logical order and would cause confusion.
	Option H is incorrect	Inserting this sentence after sentence 5 would present the ideas out of logical order and would create confusion.

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Item#	Rationale	
9	Option D is correct	As written, there are no grammatical errors in this sentence, so no revision is needed.
	Option A is incorrect	Changing "which" to "this" introduces a comma-splice error, which occurs when two main clauses are connected with only a comma.
	Option B is incorrect	This revision is ineffective because the use of "it" results in an unclear sentence.
	Option C is incorrect	This revision results in an inaccurate change in meaning as well as an awkward sentence structure that lacks clarity.

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10	Option H is correct	Combining sentences 20 and 21 with the coordinating conjunction “and” is an effective way to combine the two short sentences because it eliminates the choppiness.
	Option F is incorrect	Connecting the two sentences with “when it” suggests that the color blends in only when the color protects the butterfly, which is inaccurate.
	Option G is incorrect	Connecting the two sentences with “that” incorrectly suggests that the natural surroundings, and not the butterfly’s color, protect the butterfly.
	Option J is incorrect	Connecting the two sentences with a comma creates a comma-splice error, which occurs when two main clauses are connected with only a comma.

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11	Option A is correct	The idea in this sentence effectively supports the information in sentence 23 because the writer explains why the color of the monarch butterfly keeps predators from eating it, which is the focus of the paragraph.
	Option B is incorrect	Although further information about coloration is included in this sentence, these details are not necessary and are irrelevant to the focus of the paragraph, which is about the butterfly's defense.
	Option C is incorrect	This revision is ineffective because it includes an unnecessary detail that is not relevant to the idea presented in sentence 23.
	Option D is incorrect	Making this revision would not be effective because it includes an unnecessary detail that is not relevant to the idea presented in sentence 23.

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12	Option J is correct	Changing “copy” to “resemble” more clearly conveys the idea that the spots on butterfly wings look like the eyes of large birds, rather than suggesting the spots are exactly like the eyes of large birds.
	Option F is incorrect	Spots that “prove” the eyes of large birds makes little sense, so this change does not provide additional clarity in this sentence.
	Option G is incorrect	Replacing “copy” with “transfer” conveys an inaccurate idea and does not provide additional clarity about the spots on butterfly wings.
	Option H is incorrect	Changing “copy” to “invite” conveys an inaccurate idea and does not provide additional clarity about the spots on butterfly wings.

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13	Option A is correct	A concluding sentence captures the overall meaning of a paper. Adding these sentences effectively summarizes the information shared about butterfly wings throughout the paper.
	Option B is incorrect	The use of "other things" in this revision is too vague to effectively sum up the ideas discussed in the paper.
	Option C is incorrect	Adding these sentences would result in an ineffective conclusion because the idea that butterflies would not be beautiful without their wings is not the focus of the paper.
	Option D is incorrect	This revision ineffectively sums up the ideas in the paper because "why the butterfly has wings" is not the focus of the paper, and "the balance of nature" is an extraneous idea.

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Item#	Rationale	
14	Option H is correct	Changing the question mark to an exclamation point corrects the punctuation error because an impressive act is being emphasized, and the sentence is not a question.
	Option F is incorrect	Deleting the comma would introduce a punctuation error because the comma is necessary to separate the two independent clauses. An independent clause is a clause that can stand alone as a complete sentence.
	Option G is incorrect	Changing "imagine" to the present-progressive form "imagining" creates an error in verb tense.
	Option J is incorrect	Leaving the sentence as is would not correct the punctuation error.

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Item#	Rationale	
15	Option D is correct	Changing "developped" to "developed" corrects the spelling error in the sentence.
	Option A is incorrect	Changing "was" to "were" would create an error in subject-verb agreement. Since the subject "she" is singular, the verb that agrees is "was."
	Option B is incorrect	A possessive is a noun or pronoun that shows possession by the addition of an apostrophe. As written, "months" correctly indicates a plural noun rather than a possessive noun. Adding an apostrophe creates a punctuation error.
	Option C is incorrect	Deleting the comma after "however" creates a punctuation error because "however" should be set off by commas when it is used to interrupt a sentence.

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Item#	Rationale	
16	Option H is correct	The correct usage of the word "lose" should replace the incorrect usage of the word "loose" since the worsening state of Brown's vision is being described.
	Option F is incorrect	The word "doctors" is not a proper noun, which is a noun that refers to a specific person, place, idea, or event, so it does not need to be capitalized.
	Option G is incorrect	Changing the plural pronoun "they" to the singular pronoun "she" creates an incorrect reference to the plural subject "doctors."
	Option J is incorrect	The word "site" refers to a location and should not be used to replace "sight," which is the function of seeing.

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Item#	Rationale	
17	Option A is correct	Sentence 20 is a dependent clause, which is a clause that cannot stand alone as a complete sentence. Combining sentences 20 and 21 with a comma eliminates the sentence-construction error.
	Option B is incorrect	A sentence fragment is a group of words that do not form a complete sentence. This change results in awkward sentence structure, and the second sentence is a sentence fragment.
	Option C is incorrect	The incorrect placement of the comma after “pole-vaulter” introduces a grammatical error and does not correct the sentence-construction error.
	Option D is incorrect	Making this change incorrectly alters the meaning of the first sentence, and the second sentence is a fragment.

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Item#	Rationale	
18	Option F is correct	A possessive noun shows possession by the addition of an apostrophe. Changing the plural possessive noun "coaches'" to the singular possessive noun "coach's" corrects the grammatical error in the sentence.
	Option G is incorrect	Changing the verb form from "pick up" to "picking up" would create a grammatical error in the sentence.
	Option H is incorrect	Changing the present tense verb "start" to the past-perfect tense "had started" creates an incorrect shift in verb tense.
	Option J is incorrect	Changing "artificial" to "artifitial" would introduce a spelling error.

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19	Option B is correct	As written, sentence 28 includes a comma-splice error, which occurs when two main clauses are connected with only a comma. Removing the comma and "it is" from the sentence corrects the comma-splice error.
	Option A is incorrect	The incorrect placement of a period disrupts the meaning of the original sentence and creates a sentence fragment, which is a group of words that do not form a complete sentence.
	Option C is incorrect	The incorrect placement of a period creates a run-on, an error in which two or more clauses are joined incorrectly, and it also creates a sentence fragment.
	Option D is incorrect	Leaving sentence 28 as is would not correct the comma-splice error.

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Item#	Rationale	
20	Option H is correct	The comma after "sophomore" should be deleted since "and" does not connect an independent clause, which is a clause that can stand alone as a complete sentence.
	Option F is incorrect	Changing the past-tense verb "came" to "comes" results in incorrect verb tense because the achievements being described happened in the past.
	Option G is incorrect	Changing "eighth" to "eight" would introduce a usage error.
	Option J is incorrect	Leaving sentence 35 as is would not correct the punctuation error.

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Item#	Rationale	
21	Option C is correct	Inserting quotation marks before "she" correctly completes the set of quotation marks used to indicate the quotation from Charlotte Brown.
	Option A is incorrect	Changing "believe" to "beleive" would introduce a spelling error.
	Option B is incorrect	Changing "impairment" to "imparement" would introduce a spelling error.
	Option D is incorrect	Leaving sentence 42 unchanged would not correct the punctuation error.

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Item#	Rationale	
22	Option G is correct	Changing "exaust" to "exhaust" corrects the spelling error.
	Option F is incorrect	The verb "added" is used correctly and should not be changed.
	Option H is incorrect	Changing "to create" to "and create" incorrectly alters the meaning of the sentence and introduces a subject/verb agreement error.
	Option J is incorrect	A possessive noun shows possession by the addition of an apostrophe. As written, "streams" correctly indicates a plural noun rather than a possessive noun. Adding an apostrophe would create a punctuation error.

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23	Option D is correct	Changing "whether" to "weather" corrects the grammatical error since the word "weather" should be used to convey the conditions in the atmosphere.
	Option A is incorrect	Changing the noun "visibility" to the adjective "visible" would create a grammatical error in the sentence.
	Option B is incorrect	Changing "is" to "are" would introduce a grammatical error since "visibility" is the singular subject of the sentence.
	Option C is incorrect	Changing "dependent" to "dependant" would introduce a spelling error.

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24	Option F is correct	"Captain" Cyril Turner is a proper noun, a noun that refers to a specific person, place, idea, or event, and requires capitalization. Additionally, a title before a name is capitalized.
	Option G is incorrect	A nonrestrictive phrase or clause is used to provide additional information about a word and is always set off from the rest of the sentence with a comma. Deleting the comma would introduce a grammatical error because "the name of a newspaper" is a nonrestrictive phrase.
	Option H is incorrect	Changing "the name" to "it is the name" would introduce a comma-splice error, which occurs when two main clauses are connected with only a comma.
	Option J is incorrect	Leaving sentence 14 unchanged would not correct the capitalization error.

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Item#	Rationale	
25	Option C is correct	A run-on sentence is an error in which two or more clauses are joined incorrectly. As written, sentence 20 combines two main clauses without any punctuation. Separating the two main clauses with a period creates two distinct sentences and corrects the run-on sentence.
	Option A is incorrect	Inserting a period after "beaches" and adding "Although" introduces a sentence fragment, which is a group of words that do not form a complete sentence.
	Option B is incorrect	Inserting a period after "beaches" and adding "So the" introduces a sentence fragment.
	Option D is incorrect	Leaving sentence 20 unchanged would not correct the run-on sentence.

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26	Option H is correct	Since the subject of the sentence is the plural noun "companies," the correct pronoun to use is the plural pronoun "their."
	Option F is incorrect	A participle is a verb that is used to indicate a past or present action. Changing "including" to the past participle "included" would create a grammatical error in the sentence.
	Option G is incorrect	A nonrestrictive phrase or clause is used to provide additional information about a word and is always set off from the rest of the sentence with a comma. Deleting the comma would introduce a grammatical error because "including Chrysler and Ford" is a nonrestrictive phrase.
	Option J is incorrect	A possessive noun shows possession by the addition of an apostrophe. As written, "ads" correctly indicates a plural noun rather than a possessive noun. Adding an apostrophe would create a punctuation error.

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27	Option D is correct	This sentence is written correctly.
	Option A is incorrect	Changing "could not" to "could not never" causes confusion because it creates a double negative, which is an error that occurs when two negative words are used together.
	Option B is incorrect	Changing "advances" to "advanses" would introduce a spelling error.
	Option C is incorrect	Changing the past-tense verb "made" to the present-tense verb "making" creates an incorrect shift in verb tense.

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28	Option J is correct	Changing the adverb "reliably" to the adjective "reliable" corrects the error in the sentence since a noun, "broadcasts," is being described.
	Option F is incorrect	Changing "eventually" to "eventualy" would introduce a spelling error.
	Option G is incorrect	Changing "that" to "what" does not make sense in this sentence and is grammatically incorrect.
	Option H is incorrect	Since "broadcasts" is a plural noun, the use of "were" is correct. Changing "were" to "was" would introduce a grammatical error.

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29	Option C is correct	Nouns and verbs must agree with one another in number. Changing "writes" to "write" corrects the subject-verb agreement error in the sentence because the verb "write" agrees with the subject "they."
	Option A is incorrect	A serial comma is a series of commas separating words or things in a series. The comma after "companies" correctly separates "advertise for companies" from the other tasks in the series.
	Option B is incorrect	A possessive noun shows possession by the addition of an apostrophe. As written, "events" correctly indicates a plural noun rather than a possessive noun. Adding an apostrophe creates a punctuation error.
	Option D is incorrect	Changing "proposals" to "proposes" causes confusion by changing a noun to a verb and is grammatically incorrect.

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30	Option F is correct	The words "sights" and "sites" are homonyms, which are words that have the same pronunciation but different meanings and/or spelling. Changing "sights" to "sites" corrects the error in the sentence since a location on the internet is being described.
	Option G is incorrect	Changing the plural pronoun "their" to the singular pronoun "her" creates an incorrect reference to Suzanne Asbury-Oliver and Steve Oliver.
	Option H is incorrect	The singular noun "location" is used correctly in the sentence. Changing "location" to the plural noun "locations" introduces a grammatical error.
	Option J is incorrect	Leaving sentence 38 unchanged would not correct the grammatical error in the sentence.